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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

(CITY OF GLASGOW REGIMENT)

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Extracts from an address delivered by Field-Marshal Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Field, on April 18th, 1915, to the 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry after the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

" It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of seeing the Regiment and expressing the deep gratitude and admiration which I personally owe to you for the part you played in the recent action at Neuve Chapelle. I wish to express my thanks to each Officer, N.C.O. and man for what he did on those days. I have heard constant good accounts of the Highland Light Infantry since you arrived with the Sirhind Brigade in November last. **There is no more distinguished Regiment in the Army than the Highland Light Infantry, and you bear a long list of honours on your Colours.** In years to come you will have reason to be as proud of your doings at Neuve Chapelle as of any honour on that list.

" I remember that you were one of the Regiments that advanced and tried to cross the River De Layes under withering fire and in spite of every adverse circumstance. But it is at such times that the British soldier shows at his best, and you hung on with that tenacity and doggedness which is characteristic of our Infantry. I am sure that you are prepared to do the same in the future.

" I am glad to see that, in spite of all you have gone through, you can still show such a splendid front as you do to-day. I repeat that I am glad to have had the opportunity of seeing you and telling you how pleased I am with you."

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The following Notes are a Short History of the Regiment. They are intended to encourage those who join the Regiment to read its history in greater detail and to foster in them a pride in its great traditions and fighting records.

THE REGIMENT TO-DAY.

BEFORE World War II (1939-45) the Highland Light Infantry consisted of the Regimental Depot at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, where recruits underwent their initial training, and two Regular Battalions—the 1st and 2nd. One of these served at home and in peacetime provided drafts for the other serving abroad.

In addition the Regiment had four active Territorial Battalions, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 1st Bn. The Glasgow Highlanders, which formed the 157th (H.L.I.) Infantry Brigade.

In 1939 these Battalions "doubled themselves," and the new Battalions formed were the 10th, 11th, and 2nd Bn. Glasgow Highlanders, the 7th H.L.I. becoming a Searchlight Battalion.

When the War ended these were disbanded, and on further reduction of the Infantry strength the 5th and 6th Bns. were joined to form the 5/6th Bn. Also the 2nd Bn. (Regular) was amalgamated with the 1st Bn. So the Regiment to-day consists of a Depot, one Regular and two Territorial Battalions.

In the Depot is the Regimental Museum which all are welcome to see who are interested in the Regiment.

The Regiment also has its own film of its history which covers all the history in the following pages. This film is shown to all recruits.

The Regimental magazine—*The H.L.I. Chronicle*—is published every four months. It was first published in 1893 and has never ceased publication since that date.

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THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

(City of Glasgow Regiment)

Colonel-in-Chief:

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE, C.I.

Allied Regiment - The Highland Light Infantry of Canada.

THE REGIMENTAL BADGE.

The present Regimental Badge was first designed when the 71st and 74th were united, and is made up from the badges of both Regiments.

(1) The Star of the Order of the Thistle.

(2) The Cross of St. Andrew, St. Andrew being the Patron Saint of Scotland.

(3) The Imperial Crown.

(4) The Light Infantry Horn of the 71st, inscribed "H.L.I."

(5) The Elephant superscribed "Assaye," in memory of the conduct of the 74th at the Battle of Assaye.

Battle Honours.—Emblazoned on Regimental Colour. (32)

The Elephant superscribed "Assaye."

The Castle and Key superscribed "Gibraltar" with the motto, *Montis Insignia Calpe.*

Carnatic, Hindoostan, Sholinghur, Mysore, Seringapatam, Cape of Good Hope 1806, Rolica, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco, Almaraz,

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Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsular, Waterloo, South Africa 1851-2-3, Sevastopol, Central India, Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt 1882, Modder River, South Africa 1899-1902.

FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-19.

Mons, Retreat from Mons, Marne 1914, Aisne 1914, **Ypres 1914, 15, 17, 18;** Langemark 1914, 17; Gheluvelt, Nonne Bosschen, Givenchy 1914, Neuve Chapelle, St. Julien, Aubers, Festubert 1915, **Loos, Somme 1916, 18;** Albert 1916, 18; Bazentin, Delville Wood, Pozieres, Flers-Courcellette, Le Transloy, Ancre Heights, Ancre 1916, 18; **Arras 1917, 18;** Vimy 1917, Scarpe 1917, 18; Arleux, Pilckem, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, 18; St. Quentin, Bayaume 1918, Lys, Estaires, Messines 1918, Hazebrouck, Bailleul, Kemmel, Amiens, Drocourt-Queant, **Hindenburg Line,** Havrincourt, Canal Du Nord, St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Courtrai, Selle, Sambre, France and Flanders 1914, 18; **Gallipoli 1915, 16;** Rumani, Egypt 1916, Gaza, Al Mughar, Nebi Samwil, Jaffa, **Palestine 1917, 18;** Tigris 1916, Kut Al Amara 1917, Sharquat, **Mesopotamia 1916, 18;** Murman 1919, **Archangel 1919.**

The Ten Honours in heavy type are emblazoned on the King's Colours.

In addition The 2nd Battalion carry the "Assaye Colour" presented to the 74th by the Honourable East India Company.

FORMATION OF THE 71ST HIGHLAND REGIMENT OF FOOT.

The Regiment was originally raised in 1777 by John MacKenzie, commonly called Lord Macleod. Both he and his father, the Earl of Cromarty, supported Bonnie Prince Charlie in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 and were imprisoned in the Tower of London. On the account of his youth John MacKenzie received

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an unconditional pardon, but finding his estates and title gone decided to seek service in the Swedish Army. After serving the crown of Sweden for 27 years with great distinction, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

Returning to England on the outbreak of the American War of Independence, he was presented to King George III, who received him graciously, and later accepted his offer to raise a regiment. He went North, recruited 840 Highlanders from the old family estates, and marched to Elgin, where they were soon joined by 240 Lowlanders and 34 English and Irish enlisted at Glasgow.

Initially the Regiment was numbered 73rd Lord Macleod's Highlanders, but in 1786 this was changed to the 71st. In 1881 the 71st became the 1st Battalion The Highland Light Infantry.

FORMATION OF THE 74TH HIGHLAND REGIMENT OF FOOT.

In the year 1787 four new regiments were ordered for the Service of the State, to be numbered 74th, 75th, 76th, and 77th. The 74th and 75th were to be raised in the north of Scotland and were to be Highland Regiments. Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.B., of Inverneill in Argyllshire, received the letter of service to raise the 74th Highland Regiment and was appointed its first Colonel. The Regiment was recruited for the most part in Argyllshire and was embodied at Glasgow and Dumbarton.

In 1881 the 74th became the 2nd Battalion The Highland Light Infantry.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE REGIMENTAL DRESS.

1st Battalion or 71st.

When raised in 1777 the 73rd Highland Regiment (Macleod's Highlanders), and its 2nd Battalion, raised in 1778, wore full Highland dress and feathered bonnets with red and white hackle. The present MacKenzie tartan was adopted at an early date.

In 1809, after a distinguished record of service, the 71st was specially selected to join that chosen band of Light Infantry

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Regiments who then formed a *corps d'elite* of the Army of the Peninsula. It was directed that clothing, arms and discipline should be the same as other Regiments in the Corps, but in addition "the men would be permitted to retain such parts of their national dress as might not be inconsistent with their duties as a Light Corps." Pipers were specifically to retain "full Highland Dress"—the first official recognition of Pipers as such. The 71st now had the unique distinction of being "Highland" and "Light Infantry."

In 1834 the 71st were granted permission to wear tartan trews and plaids or shawls and this full dress with small variations remained with the Regiment till it adopted the Kilt again in 1948.

Many alterations took place in succeeding years, but always the combination of "Highland" and "Light Infantry" was preserved in the dress.

2nd Battalion or 74th.

The dress of the 2nd Battalion when raised in 1787 as the 74th Highland Regiment was the full Highland dress of kilt and feathered bonnet.

Shortly after its formation the 74th was sent to the East Indies where the wearing of the kilt was discontinued owing to climatic conditions. Returning to Scotland to recruit in 1806 the kilt was again taken into use, but on subsequent posting to Ireland in 1809 it was ordered that the Highland Dress of the Regiment would once more be laid aside. For the next 37 years its identity as a Highland Regiment was, owing to recruiting difficulties, practically lost.

In the *Gazette* of 14th November, 1846, the following announcement was published :—

> "Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve the 74th foot resuming the appellation 74th (Highland) Regiment of foot and of its being clothed accordingly ; that is, to wear the tartan trews . . ."

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It was directed by the Adjutant-General that the tartan now worn by the 74th should not be the old pattern as in use by two other Regiments (the 42nd and 93rd), but that it should be distinguished by the introduction of a white stripe. The final set used was that known as " Lamont."

After Amalgamation.

When the two Battalions were linked in 1881 the Regiment was asked whether it wished to readopt the kilt, but this change was not made because the tartan trews signified the double distinction of being " Highland " and " Light Infantry."

Later, however, Lowland Regiments were permitted to wear tartan trews and, through the good offices of our Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Connaught, white Highland spats were added; this again restoring to the dress of the Regiment its unique character.

1946 brought further changes to the organisation of the Army, particularly affecting Infantry Regiments. To-day, in the Highland Regiments, officers and men may be inter posted though it is always the intention to keep them in the Regiments of their choice if possible. In 1948 the Regiment re-adopted the Kilt—its original dress—by general consent to bring it into line with the other five kilted Regiments of the Brigade but the great " Light Infantry Traditions " will always survive.

THE CARDWELL SYSTEM.

Prior to 1881 overseas service was not evenly balanced with home service. Owing to many commitments, slow communications and, at the time, little need for home defence, two-thirds of our military strength was normally situated outside the United Kingdom.

But the great advances of applied science saw the disappearance of administrative difficulties with the development of the electric telegraph, rail transport, steam navigation and, of course, completion of the Suez Canal in 1869. Public opinion, too, demanded more attention to home defence.

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To achieve a proper balance of our military resources Mr. Edward Cardwell, the Secretary of State for War under Gladstone, decided to link all Infantry Battalions in pairs, directing that one would serve abroad and the other at home.

In 1881, under the Cardwell System, the 71st and 74th were united as the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Highland Light Infantry, and the Regiment received the City of Glasgow as its territorial area, where the Regimental Depot is now situated.

CAMPAIGNS.

India—1780-84.

The 73rd, though raised with a view to reinforcing our armies in America, was diverted to India where the French were making their final bid to regain lost prestige and territory. After a journey which lasted exactly twelve months the Battalion arrived at Madras in January, 1780.

In Southern India a Mohammedan adventurer, Haider Ali, was in control of Mysore State, and it was against his numerous followers that the 73rd was to receive its baptism of fire.

During this initial testing period the Regiment fought many battles against great odds, and its distinguished conduct at Porto Novo in 1781 was perhaps typical of the period. There General Coote's Army did not exceed 8,000 men of which the 73rd was the only British Regiment; while that under Haider Ali consisted of 25 infantry battalions, 40,000 horse, 47 cannon and many followers.

Despite the great difference in numbers, General Coote was determined to attack, and did so with the 73rd leading on the right of the first line. After a battle lasting eight hours the enemy was forced from his entrenchments and compelled to retire.

General Coote presented a set of silver-mounted pipes in recognition of the gallantry of the Pipers in the battle.

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A Peace was concluded with Haider Ali's son, Tippoo Sahib, in 1784. In 1786 the regimental number was changed from 73rd to 71st.

India—1792-99.

Tippoo Sahib renewed hostilities in Mysore in 1789, and by June of that year the 74th had disembarked at Madras and was soon brigaded with the 71st and 72nd Highland Regiments.

This campaign terminated in 1792 with the storming and capture of Seringapatam, Tippoo's stronghold, wherein his body was found amongst the slain.

It is interesting to note that the first occasion on which the 71st and 74th fought together in action was during this first assault upon Seringapatam, after which they received Royal authority to bear the word "Seringapatam" on their Regimental Colours.

In October, 1797, the 71st sailed for home, having transferred many men to the 74th—the latter were to spend another seven years in India.

India—1803 (Assaye).

The Mahratta chief, Duolat Rao Scindia of Gwailior, aspiring like so many individuals before him to the conquest of Hindustan, intrigued with other native chiefs to attack the British. He was completely defeated by Major-General Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington) at the Battle of Assaye, in which the 74th Highlanders bore a most distinguished part.

THE BATTLE.

On the 23rd September Major-General Wellesley attacked the whole combined Mahratta Army of Scindia and the Rajah of Berar at Assaye. The Mahratta Army of 40,000 men was completely defeated by a force of 5,000 in which not more than 2,000 were Europeans; losing 98 pieces of cannon and 7 standards and leaving 1,200 killed on the field.

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The conduct of the 74th on this memorable occasion was most gallant. The Officer Commanding the picquets on the right led straight up to the village of Assaye ; and the 74th, whose orders were to support the picquets, followed them. The Regiment was unsupported, exposed to a terrible cannonade, and afterwards charged by cavalry sustaining a tremendous loss. In this action, the keenest ever fought in India, every Officer present with the Regiment was either killed or wounded, except Quarter-master James Grant who, when he saw so many of his friends fall in the battle, resolved to share their fate, and, though a non-cambatant, joined the ranks and fought to the termination of the action. The Regiment was brought out of action by Major Swinton (wounded) and Quarter-master Grant.

The Governor-General ordered that special honorary colours with a device properly suited to commemorate that signal and splendid victory be presented to the three British Regiments that took part: the 19th Regiment of Light Dragoons (now 19th Hussars) and the 74th and 78th Regiments of Foot.

The 78th (later 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders) ceased to carry this third Colour after it left India but the 74th continued to carry this Third Colour—a very unique distinction in the Army—till 1948.

Battle Honours.—Carnatic, Sholinghur, Mysore, Hindustan, Seringapatam, Assaye.

Siege of Gibraltar—1780-83.

The 2nd Battalion of the 73rd took part in Rodney's memorable action of Cape St. Vincent on 8th June, 1780, when they were distributed amongst the different ships of the Fleet and acted as Marines. They subsequently served with conspicuous devotion to duty throughout the siege, when the gallant garrison held out successfully for three years under the most difficult conditions.

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The distinction of the Castle and Key superscribed "Gibraltar" and with the motto "Montis Insignia Calpe" underneath is now borne on the colours.

Battle Honour.—Gibraltar.

Capture of the Cape of Good Hope—1806.

Under the Treaty of Amiens in 1802 we returned the Cape of Good Hope to Holland, but in 1806, as it was still under French control, it seemed probable that the latter would develop the Cape as a base to maintain their lines of communication with India. As a result, an expedition including the 71st was sent out under General Baird (who, as an officer in the 73rd, had been taken prisoner and held in chains in Seringapatam until it was stormed in 1792). His force was entirely successful and the "half-way house to India" passed permanently into British possession. The Regiment had been in the vanguard of all the fighting that took place with the 72nd and 93rd Highlanders.

From South Africa the Regiment sailed to Buenos Aires where, after an initial success, the small expedition was forced, owing to lack of support, to capitulate and become prisoners until their release in 1807.

Battle Honour.—Cape of Good Hope 1806.

The Peninsular Wars in Spain and Portugal—1808—14.

Nelson's great victory at Trafalgar on 21st October, 1805, shattered Napoleon's hopes of invading England, but having gained supremacy over Continental Europe, he issued a decree against all commercial intercourse with Great Britain. Portugal declined to carry out his Imperial Decree, so Napoleon, cajoling the Spaniards into a false security, despatched an army through Spain against Portugal. The Spaniards soon discovered that Napoleon's ulterior motive was to place his brother Joseph, King of Naples, upon the throne of Spain. Joseph Bonaparte entered Madrid on the 20th July, 1808, but the Spaniards refused to accept him, declared Ferdinand VII (son of their former King Charles IV) king, and appealed to England for help.

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The First Campaign in the Peninsula, 1808-1809.

The 71st formed part of Sir Arthur Wellesley's Army which was despatched from England to aid the Spaniards, and took part in the Battles of Rolica and Vimiera.

The Battle of Vimiera resulted in a complete victory for the British, the French being driven from the field losing 21 guns, 23 ammunition wagons, and all their baggage, together with a great number of officers and men, killed, wounded and taken prisoner. The French were forced to sign a Treaty called "The Convention of Cintra." and by its conditions had to evacuate Portugal. They accordingly embarked their troops at Lisbon and sailed back to France while the British marched into the capital.

During the Battle of Vimiera, Piper George Clark, of the 71st, was severely wounded in the thigh, but refused to leave the field. Seated calmly on his knapsack he continued to play his pipes encouraging his comrades to victory. For his gallantry he was presented with a set of silver-mounted pipes by the Highland Society of London. Corporal John McKay, of the 71st, captured a French General during the battle and was later given a commission in the West India Regiment.

Sir John Moore now assumed command and prepared to move his Army into Spain to assist the Spaniards. His intentions were to concentrate near Valladolid, but on reaching Salamanca he learned that the Spanish Army had been completely routed and that the French, believing the English had retreated into Portugal, were advancing towards Badajos.

He thereupon advanced to Sahagun, intending to attack the French lines of communications and divert the enemy in his direction.

On the eve of the attack, however, he received information that Napoleon himself was advancing upon him from Madrid with vastly superior forces.

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Then ensued the celebrated retreat to Corunna in which the 71st took a distinguished part, forming with other units the rearguard until the final battle near the coast in which the French were defeated. It was here that Sir John Moore died of wounds sustained during the battle. With the remainder of the Army the 71st embarked for England.

It was a result of its warlike efficiency and gallantry that the 71st was now selected as a **" Light Infantry "** Regiment and as " Light Infantry " its first campaign was an ill-fated one for the Army, i.e., the Walcheren Expedition to Holland. Fever sickened and decimated the ranks of the Regiments engaged to such an extent that the Army had to be withdrawn.

The Second Campaign of the Peninsula, 1810-14.

Both the 71st and the 74th took a prominent and gallant part in the various battles of this campaign.

During the Battle of Sobral the French advanced in such numbers that the 71st, who were holding a redoubt, were obliged to retreat hurriedly over a wall. On this occasion an old soldier named John Rae, a native of Paisley, not being able to climb the wall as quickly as the rest, and being afraid of receiving a bayonet thrust from behind while doing so, resolved to stand his ground. He shot the first enemy that approached, and bayoneted two more, after which he leisurely affected his retreat. For this action he was granted a medal, with the following inscription :—" To John Rae, for his exemplary courage and good conduct as a soldier at Sobral, 14th October, 1810."

This brilliant exploit was followed by two more. In October, 1810, the 71st and 92nd Highlanders made a surprise attack at Arroyos Molinos capturing 1,400 prisoners and much baggage. Shortly after they captured the bridgehead at Almaraby, a brilliantly executed and determined attack.

At the Battle of Fuentes d'Onor the 71st made a combined attack with the 74th and drove the French from the village of Fuentes.

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The storming of Badajos in which the 71st took so distinguished a part was one of the most celebrated of the many gallant exploits performed by the Peninsular Army. One of the foremost in the escalade was John McLaughlin, the Regimental Piper, who, the instant he mounted the castle wall, began playing the Regimental quickstep, "The Campbells are Coming." He continued to play as coolly as if on an ordinary parade at the head of the advance along the ramparts until the music stopped by a shot through the bag of his pipes. He was subsequently seen by an Officer of the Regiment, seated on a gun-carriage repairing the damage regardless of the shot flying about him, and presently he re-commenced his animating tune.

Later, at the Battle of Vittoria, Piper McLaughlin had both his legs shot off by a cannon ball whilst playing behind the Colours during the pursuit. At his request his pipes were given to him and he continued to play until he died.

The 71st and 74th both took a very distinguished part in the Battle of Vittoria, the most important battle fought by the British in the Peninsula, and the most complete defeat suffered by the French, who lost all their artillery, baggage, treasure chest, and stores, besides a large number of men, King Joseph himself narrowly escaped capture. In this battle the 71st suffered severe losses including their gallant Commanding Officer, Colonel the Hon. Henry Cadogan, who fell mortally wounded whilst leading his men to the charge.

Finally both Regiments took part in the desperate fighting in the Pyrenees, and the pursuit into France, the war ending with the capture of Toulouse.

Total casualties :—71st—311 killed and 1,200 wounded ; 74th—whose records only show major action casualties—suffered over 500.

Battle Honours.—Rolica, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco, Almaraz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthez, Toulouse, Peninsular.

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Waterloo—1815.

Napoleon, having escaped from Elba in February, 1815, placed himself at the head of a large French Army which had rallied quickly to his support. On the 18th June he was completely defeated by Wellington at the great Battle of Waterloo. The 71st formed part of the famous Light Brigade (Adam's) which, in "squares," repulsed repeated charges by masses of French cavalry throughout the day. About 7 p.m. Napoleon's last great effort was made. He brought up his Old Guard, veterans of a hundred fights, and in two dense columns advanced against the British position; after the French artillery had played upon the waiting British infantry, the left column moving straight for Adam's Brigade. It was drawn up with the 52nd (now the 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) on the right, 71st in the centre, and 95th (now the Rifle Brigade) on the left. As the column approached, the right companies of the 52nd brought their right flanks forward and poured a heavy fire into the left flank of the enemy, the 95th acted in a similar manner on their right, and the 71st met them face to face. The huge column paused, and the whole Light Brigade, with one impulse, rushed forward, the 71st leaving seven officers and 120 men lying on the ground to show where they had stood for several hours under the assaults of the enemy, and swept the enemy before them. The whole British line now advanced, and the victory was complete.

At one period in the battle the Duke of Wellington himself took refuge in a square of the 71st during a French charge.

Battle Honour.—Waterloo.

After Waterloo there was a long period of comparative peace and both the 71st and 74th spent many years in Ireland, Canada and the West Indian Islands.

The Kaffir War in South Africa—1851-52-53.

The 74th was engaged throughout this arduous campaign, which was fought against an uncivilised enemy in difficult bush

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country. It is interesting to note that in this campaign, equipment and uniforms coloured with coffee were used for the first time as an aid to camouflage, and proved to be very practical. Despite this successful experiment our troops disembarked in South Africa 50 years later for the Boer War still wearing red tunics :

This war will always be associated with the troop transport, *Birkenhead,* which was wrecked on the 26th February, 1852. No notes on the history of the Regiment would be complete without a short summary of this epic story, which brings out to the full the qualities of comradeship, discipline and courage that all young soldiers must learn in order to live up to the traditions of the Regiment.

The Wreck of the " Birkenhead."

On the 7th January, 1852, the paddle troopship, *Birkenhead,* commanded by Captain Robert Salmond, sailed from Cove for the Cape of Good Hope with detachments from the Depots of ten Regiments, under the command of Lt.-Col. Seton, 74th Highlanders—altogether 631 persons, including a crew of 132, the remainder being soldiers with their wives and families. Of the soldiers, Lt.-Col. Seton, Ensign Alexander Cumming Russell, and 66 men belonged to the 74th. The *Birkenhead* made a fair voyage out and reached Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, on 23rd February, when Capt. Salmond was ordered to proceed eastwards and land the troops at Algoa Bay and Buffalo River. Accordingly, the *Birkenhead* sailed about six o'clock on the evening of the 25th. Shortly before 2 a.m. on the 26th, when about three miles from land, the *Birkenhead* suddenly struck on a sunken rock. The water rushed into the fore part of the ship and drowned many soldiers sleeping on the lower deck.

Colonel Seton, on coming on deck, at once comprehended the situation. He impressed on the Officers the necessity of preserving discipline and silence. He then ordered the soldiers to form

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up on both sides of the quarter deck, the men obeying as on parade. A party was told off to work the pumps, another to assist the sailors in lowering the boats, and a third to throw the horses overboard. " Everyone did as he was directed," says Captain Wright of the 91st, " all received their orders and had them carried out as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom. There was only this difference, that I never saw an embarkation conducted with so little noise and confusion." Meanwhile Captain Salmond, thinking no doubt to get the ship safely afloat again and to steam her nearer the shore, ordered the engines to be reversed. This only hastened the destruction of the ship which bumped again upon the rocks, so that a great hole was torn in the bottom, letting the water rush in volumes into the engine room and so putting out the fires.

The situation was now more critical than ever, but the soldiers remained quietly at their places while Colonel Seton stood in the gangway seeing the women and children passed safely down into the second cutter. About ten minutes after the *Birkenhead* first struck the rock she broke in two at the foremost, this mast and the funnel falling over the starboard side, crushing many and throwing into the water those who were endeavouring to clear the paddle-box boat. But the men kept their places though many of them were mere lads who had only been in the service a few months. An eye witness, speaking of the Captain and Colonel Seton, has said : " Side by side they stood at the helm, providing for the safety of all who could be saved. They never tried to save themselves."

At last, Captain Salmond, seeing that nothing more could be done, advised all who could swim to jump overboard and make for the boats. But Colonel Seton told the men that if they did so they would be sure to swamp the boats and send the women and children to the bottom ; he therefore asked them to keep their places and they obeyed.

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The *Birkenhead* was now rapidly sinking and she again broke abaft the main mast, plunging the hundreds who had so bravely stuck to their posts into the sea. "Until the vessel totally disappeared," says an eye witness, "there was not a cry or murmur from the soldiers or sailors." Those who could swim struck out for the shore, but few ever reached it; many of them either sank through exhaustion, were devoured by the sharks, dashed to death on the rugged shore near Point Danger or were entangled in the seaweed that floated thickly near the coast. Of 631 souls on board 438 were drowned; only 193 being saved. Not a single woman or child was lost. Besides Colonel Seton and Ensign Russell 48 of the 66 men belonging to the 74th perished.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria caused a memorial to be erected in the colonnade of Chelsea Hospital. It has the following inscription:—

> "This monument is erected by Command of Queen Victoria to record the heroic constancy and unbroken discipline by Lt.-Col. Seton, 74th Highlanders, and the troops embarked under his command on board the *Birkenhead* when that vessel was wrecked off the Cape of Good Hope on 26th February, 1852, and to preserve the memory of the Officers, N.C.O.s and Men who perished on that occasion."

The King of Prussia also erected a monument in Berlin, and was so impressed with this splendid example of chivalry that he ordered the story of the loss of the *Birkenhead* to be read at the head of every Regiment of his Army on three parades. The behaviour of the troops on board the *Birkenhead* established a tradition of the sea which has never died.

Battle Honour.—South Africa 1851-2-3.

The Crimean War—1853-55.

In October, 1853, the Czar of Russia declared war upon the Sultan of Turkey, in aid of whom England and France landed troops at Varna, a small Bulgarian port on the Black Sea.

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The 71st took part in no great battle, but had many fatiguing and critical duties to perform. The Regiment was present at the Siege of Sevastopol and the occupation of the Kerch Peninsula.

Battle Honour.—Sevastopol.

The Indian Mutiny—1857-59.

The 71st served for two years in the Central Indian Field Force and took part in numerous engagements during this wave of civil and military unrest which started at Meerut and quickly spread to other centres. Two companies of the 74th were also engaged. During these operations Private George Rodgers was awarded the Regiment's first Victoria Cross.

Battle Honour.—Central India.

India, 1863.

In 1863 certain tribes on the North-West Frontier were causing trouble and the 71st took part in what was known as the Ambeyla Campaign. They greatly distinguished themselves and in particular at the Crag Picquet which they took at point of bayonet.

Egypt—1882.

In 1882 the 74th took part in the suppression of a rebellion led by Arabi Pasha in Egypt. The rising was brought to a decisive end at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, where the Battalion formed part of the Highland Brigade.

Arabi's position at Tel-el-Kebir was well sited so as to give perfect fields of fire and flank protection. In the circumstances, the Army Commander decided upon the hitherto unheard of plan of a large scale night "advance to contact" and a dawn attack. It succeeded in every way, and the gallant conduct of Lieutenant W. M. Edwards brought fresh honour to the 74th by the award of the Victoria Cross.

Battle Honour.—Egypt 1882, Tel-el-Kebir.

South Africa—1899-1902.

War broke out against the Boers on 11th October, 1899, and by the end of that month the 1st Battalion had embarked for

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South Africa where it formed part of the Highland Brigade, commanded by General Andrew Wauchope, that suffered such severe losses at the battle of Magersfontein. The Battalion served in South Africa throughout the war, and individual gallantry was recognised by the award of Victoria Crosses to Corporal J. Shaul and Private C. Kennedy. After Magersfontein the Highland Brigade was broken up, and many of the men of all Battalions were formed into Mounted Infantry Companies.

Battle Honours.—South Africa 1899-1902; Modder River.

The Great War—1914-18.

During the war 26 Battalions of the Regiment were raised and of these the following served overseas; the remainder being employed as reserve battalions or garrison battalions.

1*st Battalion* (*Regular*) left India in August, 1914, with the Indian Expeditionary Force and served in Egypt, France and Mesopotamia.

2*nd Battalion* (*Regular*) left Aldershot with the 5th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Division which formed part of the original Expeditionary Force which landed in France in August, 1914. The Battalion served on the Western Front throughout the war and took part after the Armistice in the operations in North Russia.

It is interesting to note that the first meeting between the 1st and 2nd Battalions since they were linked in 1881 took place on the 23rd December, 1914, in France, near Givenchy, practically on the battlefield.

5*th*, 6*th*, 7*th Battalions* (*Territorial*) served with the 52nd Lowland Division in Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, and took part in the final attack upon the Hindenburg Line in France, 1918.

9*th Battalion* (*Territorial*) "*Glasgow Highlanders*," was one of the first Territorial battalions to land in France. The Battalion served from November, 1914, for over a year in the same Brigade as the 2nd Battalion, and throughout the war on the Western Front.

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10*th* (*Service*) and 11*th* (*Service*) *Battalions* formed part of the 9th (Scottish) Division of the new army concentrated at Bordon during August, 1914, and landed in France in May, 1915. Both battalions were amalgamated in 1916 and continued to serve on the Western Front throughout the war.

12*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* formed part of the 15th (Scottish) Division of the New Army and landed in France in July, 1915, where it served continuously on the Western Front.

14*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* was formed at the Regimental Depot, Hamilton, in July, 1915. It landed in France about a year later and served on the Western Front for the rest of the war.

15*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* was raised in September, 1914, by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow, and was mainly composed of the Tramway Employees of the City. The Battalion landed in France during November, 1915, and saw service on the Western Front until the declaration of peace.

16*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* was raised early in September, 1914, by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow and recruited mainly from former members of the Boys' Brigade. The Battalion landed in France in November, 1915, and served on the Western Front throughout the rest of the war.

17*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* was raised in September, 1914, by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and landed in France a year later, where it served for the remainder of the war.

18*th* (*Service*) *Battalion* was raised as a "Bantam" Battalion in February, 1915, by the Corporation of the City of Glasgow. This Battalion served in France from January, 1916, until the final surrender of Germany.

Over 4 years of bitter fighting in which the Empire Armies lost over 1,000,000 dead cannot be compressed into a short account, but the share taken by the Regiment is shown by our casualties, nearly 500 officers and over 10,500 men being killed,

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and the awards for gallantry gained by the Regiment include the following :—

Victoria Cross - - -	7
Distinguished Service Order -	55
Military Cross - - -	247
Distinguished Conduct Medal -	232
Military Medal - - -	685

Between 1914 and 1919 every Regiment had fought innumerable battles, and in our case we were awarded 64 Battle Honours, of these 10 selected Battle Honours are borne on the King's Colour.

The World War—1939-45.

At the outbreak of war the Battalions were stationed as follows :—

The 1st Battalion was at Fort George, Inverness-shire, under orders for trooping to Shanghai. The 2nd Battalion was in Palestine on its way back to Great Britain. The 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 1st (G.H.) and 2nd (G.H.) Battalions were located in Glasgow.

The 1st Battalion went to France in September, 1939, as part of the Second Corps Troops, British Expeditionary Force. During May, 1940, the Corps moved into Belgium just after the invasion of the Low Countries started and from then, until final evacuation from Malmo Les Bains to Ramsgate, the Battalion fought in 127 Infantry Brigade in the 42nd Division, suffering many casualties.

From June, 1940, to D-Day the Battalion served as part of 42nd (East Lancs.) Division, which became an Armoured Division in 1941, in various home stations, until joining in 1943 the 53rd (Welsh) Division in preparation for the assault on Fortress Europe. By the end of June, 1944, the Battalion was fully concentrated at Le Mare, Normandy, and went into action in this theatre on June 26th. During August a fighting advance of 33 miles was made in seven days. 53rd Division were in the

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forefront of the operations through Belgium that followed, bringing us to Antwerp early in September. From here the *Battalion* moved to take part in the corridor operations in support of the Arnhem Battle and, when these finished, the attack on D'Hertoganbosch and the other autumn actions in the river Maas. The Battalion served with great distinction in the Ardennes sector during the "Battle of the Bulge," and later the whole 30 days of the Reichwald Forest Battle (and suffered the heaviest casualties in the Division), and in the final advance through N.W. Germany, where VE-Day found it in the City of Hamburg. It is interesting to note that on its way to the Ardennes the Battalion took up a defensive position on the battlefield of Waterloo, one Company occupying the exact position of Adam's Brigade.

The 2nd Battalion went to Mersa Matruh, and saw action there in 1940. At the end of that year the Battalion went to Eritrea as part of the 5th (Indian) Division, taking part in the campaign there, including the victorious action at Keren; moving shortly after to Egypt and Iraq for garrison duties and training. The Battalion also spent 5 months in Cyprus, and rejoined the 5th (Indian) Division in March, 1942, near Sollum in the Western Desert. After severe fighting with the Division, including the Battle of "Knightsbridge," the 2nd Battalion returned to Egypt and Palestine for special training which turned out to be in preparation for the invasion of Sicily in June, 1943. Thereafter the Battalion took part in the Italian campaign until October, 1943, when it was moved to Syria for training as a Mountain Battalion.

The Battalion served in the Vis Islands, Yugoslavia, from May until September, 1944, after which it moved by air to Greece to perform garrison and security duties until the amalgamation with the 1st Battalion in 1948, necessitated by the general reduction of infantry battalions throughout the Army.

The 5th and 6th Battalions and the 1st Glasgow Highlanders (Highland Light Infantry) formed the 157 H.L.I. Brigade of 52nd

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Lowland Division and served in Great Britain until June, 1940, when the formation went to France. After 10 days in action the Battalions were evacuated from Cherbourg, and then followed an intensive period of long training in the United Kingdom until D-Day. The 6th Battalion was in action at Nijmegen during the Arnhem operations. The 5th and 1st Glasgow Highlanders Battalions helped to clear South Beveland and Walcheren with the 52nd Division, being joined at this time by the 6th Battalion. The H.L.I. Brigade then served together in Holland and Germany and was about to enter the great port of Bremen when the German Army capitulated.

10th Battalion and 2nd Glasgow Highlanders (H.L.I.) were formed in 1939, when the Territorial Army was duplicated by the process of splitting Territorial Battalions into two and forming a new battalion from each part. The 10th Battalion was formed from the 5th Battalion. Both battalions did extensive training in Great Britain until shortly after D-Day when they landed in Normandy as part of the 15th Scottish Division, B.L.A. The Battalions took part in the assault crossings of the Rhine, and during the campaign served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

11th Battalion was formed as a duplicate battalion from the 6th in 1940, and was converted to a Tank Battalion. It served in Great Britain and was disbanded in 1944.

12th Battalion was formed in 1940 from National Defence Companies. Re-designated the 30th Battalion, it was employed on Garrison duties in Great Britain until disbanded in 1944.

13th Battalion was formed from a holding Battalion in September, 1940, and became a Motor Battalion in 42nd (Armoured) Division in Great Britain until disbanded in 1944.

14th Battalion was formed as a Motor Battalion from miscellaneous Units in North Africa in 1943, and was disbanded very shortly afterwards.

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The following awards have been made to officers and men serving in the Regiment between 1939-1945 :—

1 Victoria Cross
210 Other Decorations
105 Mentions in Despatches

It is worthy of note that in 1944-45 six Battalions of the Regiment were in action in N.W. Europe—1st, 5th, 6th, 10th, 1st G.H. and 2nd G.H.—while the 2nd Battalion was in action in the Adriatic, so that all existing Battalions were in action at the same time.

Six months after V.E.-Day the 1st Battalion was moved by air to Cairo from Germany, and by 21st October had arrived in Jerusalem. Except for periods of training the Battalion was destined to serve in Palestine until finally our forces were evacuated in June, 1948.

From 1945 onwards tension between the Jewish and Arab populations continued to increase until in late 1946 open hostilities put an enormous responsibility on the British Garrison, and in particular, the 1st Battalion The Highland Light Infantry. In 1948 it was assigned the task of maintaining order in the old City of Jerusalem—a quarter notorious as a hide-out for the "thug gangs" of the rival races. The Battalion incurred over 80 casualties during the last six months, being the last battalion to cross the municipal boundary of Jerusalem on 14th May, 1948. 4 M.C.s, 1 M.M., and 5 B.E.M.s, as well as 21 Mentions in Despatches were awarded to the Bn.

2nd Battalion to Suspended Animation.

The 2nd Battalion, after performing garrison and security roles in Greece, returned to Maryhill Barracks in 1948. Shortly after the Battalion, in common with all the other Second Battalions, was placed in suspended animation, its Colours being kept by the 1st Battalion, but by amalgamating a cadre with the 1st Battalion on Assaye Day, 1948, the old 74th maintains the thread of life.

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THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY OF CANADA

WHILE the origin of the H.L.I. of Canada can be traced back to 1837, the real beginning of the organised Militia was not until 1866 when the 29th Waterloo Battalion was formed.

During the Fenian Raids (1866) three companies were called out, but after only three weeks the Fenians were repulsed and the Militia sent home again.

The Regimental badge has seen several alterations, but its motto, "Defence not Defiance," has remained unaltered since 1898.

In 1912 the Regiment was re-organised into eight companies with Regimental Headquarters at Galt, Ontario, where it still remains. From there the Regiment sent Officers, N.C.O.s and men to the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War (1914-18), although the Regiment itself was not called upon to serve overseas. Through its affiliation with the Highland Light Infantry, it carries the following battle honours on the Regimental Colour: Mont Sorrell, Arras 1917-18, Ypres 1917, Hindenburg Line, Somme, Hill 70, Amiens and Pursuit to Mons.

In 1920 the Regiment was re-organised as the H.L.I. of Canada and perpetuates the 34th and 111 C.E.F. Bns.

During the War 1939-45 the H.L.I. of Canada landed in the U.K. in 1941 where it remained training for D-Day. It landed on D-Day in Normandy, 6th June, and was engaged in action operations until the end of the war. The Regiment has the great honour of being the first Canadian Battalion to cross the Rhine whilst under command of 51st (H) Division. During the war the Regiment lost 26 Officers and 293 other ranks, and won 45 decorations, including 4 D.S.O.s and 4 M.C.s

It has now reverted to its peace time role of a unit of the Reserve Army with its Regimental Headquarters at Galt, Ontario.

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BOOK OF INFORMATION

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VIII

THE KING'S REGIMENT.

Colonel—LT.-GEN. A. D. WARD, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

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1 YOUR PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

(a) When you join the army as a Recruit your pay as such for a National Serviceman is 4/– a day. If you join as a Regular Army recruit your pay as such is 7/– a day. The table below shows you what a Regular and N.S. man can get up to the rank of Cpl. in 3 yrs.

Service	Type of Engagement	Grading	Rate of Pay per day Pte.	L/Cpl.	Cpl.
On joining	N.S.	Recruit	4/–	—	—
,, ,,	Regular	Recruit	7/–	—	—
6 months	N.S.	One star	5/–	5/6	7/6
,, ,,	Regular	,, ,,	8/–	8/6	10/6
18 months	N.S.	Two star	5/6	6/–	8/–
,, ,,	Regular	,, ,,	8/6	9/–	11/–
24 months	N.S.	Three star	9/6	10/–	12/–
,, ,,	Regular	,, ,,	9/6	10/–	12/–
36 months	Regular	Five star	10/6	11/–	13/–

Naturally the Regular Army Soldier receives more money than the N.S. soldier who will immediately switch over to Regular rates of pay should he " take on " for a Regular engagement of 3 years.

How to earn the stars. (see current regulations)

(i) 1 star—You must have six months service and be in all respects fit to perform the duties of your rank as a trained soldier. This means you must be physically fit, and have attained a good standard as a rifle and L.M.G. shot, as well as being a well-drilled and disciplined soldier in the field and in barracks.

(b) FAMILY ALLOWANCE.

If you are married you are entitled to a marriage allowance from the Paymaster. Rate 35/– per week for a N.S. man and 42/– per week for a Regular. You **must** make a Qualifying Allotment —1/6 a day N.S. man, and 2/6 a day Regular. This means a N.S. man's wife gets £2 5s. 6d. per week and a Regular soldier's wife gets £2 19s. 6d. per week.

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After 18 months service the N.S. man's wife gets £2 12s. 6d. per week. Married allowance is payable to all men from the day you join for duty after being called up for Service. If you were a married man when you attended your medical examination prior to being called up, you should have completed a form giving the necessary particulars for the allowance to be paid to your wife. If for any reason you did not complete such a form, or if you were **not** married at the time of your medical examination, but have married between the date of your examination and your joining you should report the fact to your Company Commander **immediately** in order that the necessary form can be got ready and signed by you and sent to the Paymaster for him to authorise payment to your wife.

(c) DEPENDENT ALLOWANCE.

This is **not** issued to regular soldiers. It is however issued to others to help support dependents in need of assistance.

Dependents Allowance is paid by the Government to dependents of single men who, prior to being called up for Military Service were contributing to the upkeep of a dependent, i.e. a mother, sister, or similar relative. When the allowance is granted the soldier has to make a compulsory allotment of not less than 6d. per day to his dependent in addition to the grant.

Application for this grant is made to your Company Commander verbally who will fill all the necessary forms for you.

The circumstances given by a man as a reason for this grant are, of course, subject to investigation by the authorities.

(d) KIT ALLOWANCE.

Each week the Paymaster credits your account with Kit Allowance, N.S. man 6d. per week ; Regular 1/3 per week. After 18 months the N.S. man gets 1/2 per week.

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(e) NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

Each week the Paymaster charges your account with 2/8 per week. This is a civilian scheme not Army.

2 SAVINGS.

How do I save money so I have some money put by for when I come out of the Army at the end of my Service ?

There are three ways of doing this :—

(a) Not drawing all your pay each week but leaving some in credit with the Paymaster. This can be drawn out at any pay parade.

(b) By purchasing National Savings Stamps and buying Certificates on application to your Company Quarter Master Sergeant.

(c) By joining the Army Savings Association. This means filling in a form authorising the Paymaster to deduct so much of your pay per day and deposit it in a Post Office Account. You get 2½% interest on these deposits.

The Army Savings Association is by far the best means of saving. If you save only 3d. a day this means at the end of 2 years service you have approximately £10, 6d. a day £20 and so on.

It does look worth it doesn't it ?

Every sensible person puts something by to help against hard times or to have ready for some important occasion. If you see the importance of this see your Company Commander who will arrange what you want to do.

3 LEAVE.

At the end of your Basic Training you are granted 7 days leave, and when your new unit is in Europe an extra 7 days leave. This generally is combined and called 14 days embarkation leave.

You get a further 14 days leave in England from Europe after 8 months serving overseas. If desired you may take this 14 days in Europe.

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If you are a Regular you get 42 days U.K. leave per year taken either in one or two periods.

Compassionate leave may be granted at any time for urgent reasons, e.g. serious illness or death of a close relation. Go and see your Company Commander immediately, or if you cannot find him any officer will give you every assistance when you explain things to him.

If whilst on leave, you require an extension because of sickness, compassionate reasons, etc., get in touch with your Company Commander either by phone, telegram, or letter, giving him the reasons. You should confirm this later by forwarding a Doctor's certificate or Welfare Officer's note or even from the Police.

The address in all cases will be

O.C. BASIC TRG. CADRE,
DEPOT THE KING'S REGT.,
HARINGTON BKS.,
FORMBY, LANCS.

The telephone number is FORMBY 991 which is the Depot Exchange. Ask the exchange to put you in touch with the Duty N.C.O. or failing him the Orderly Officer. He will always assist you.

You are allowed out after being in the army 14 days. By this time you generally look smart and soldier-like, and should arouse admiration not ridicule when walking out.

You may only go out if you are not on duty and not a defaulter. You must report to the Coy. Orderly Sergeant before you go out and when you return. This is to enable him to keep a check on absentees.

Whatever happens do not go absent without leave.

It is a crime for any soldier to be absent from Barracks without leave. If he absents himself the following happens when he comes back or is apprehended :

He is punished.

His pay is stopped automatically for every day he is absent.

His family pay is also stopped for days absent.

His kit is generally lost or if left lying around when he goes absent may not be there when he returns. He will have to buy more at his own expense.

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4 WELFARE.

If you have any personal worry about your private affairs go and see your Company Commander at any time. He will do his utmost in assisting you, and if the matter is beyond his help he will get outside assistance for you. Never go absent and try to settle worries yourself—you only make matters worse. All welfare queries are **strictly confidential** between you and your Coy. Commander.

5 FREE LEGAL AID.

You may while in the army obtain free legal advice and assistance on any matter including civil law but not criminal or military law. Your Company Commander will give you all information necessary on application. Again all queries will be strictly confidential.

6 RELIGION.

During your time in the army every facility will be afforded you in practising your religion. Every care is taken to preserve the soldier's religious rights and liberties. Hence Chaplains of all denominations visit the Barracks every week to see you. Should you wish to see your chaplain at times other than normal visiting day your Company Commander will arrange an interview. Soldiers attending mass for Holy Communion should not go without their breakfast. Inform your Duty N.C.O. who will arrange a late breakfast in the Dining Hall.

The Chaplain is your friend and is always glad to see you—Use him often.

7 KIT.

Get your name and number on all your kit as soon as possible. Look after it. Neither lend or borrow. Do not leave it lying about or someone else may " borrow " it and forget to return it—Then you pay. It is given to you free so if you lose it you must replace it at your expense. Keep it clean. Report to your N.C.O. at once :

Any loss.

Anything beyond repair and for exchange.

Any kit requiring cleaning (Battle dress, etc.).

Any kit requiring repair—boots, webbing, etc.

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Wear your denims to save your battledress. Wear each pair of boots alternatively—they " wear in " better. Don't keep a " best pair "—keep them studded and well polished. Get a receipt for all articles you hand into the stores.

8 DRESS.

When walking out of Barracks remember you are wearing the King's uniform and the King's Regimental Badge. Be proud of it and show you are proud. Do nothing to let your regiment down, a slovenly dressed person can.

Be smart—walk with an assured air—don't tuck your hat under your epaulets, hands in pockets, greatcoat collar turned up. They all look horrible, and eventually whilst like that you run foul of the Royal Military Police. Wear your hat properly, and don't lounge at street corners or public houses. Go where you want to go, do what you want to do and do it smartly—you are a soldier—a Kingsman—remember that always and always. A large percentage of Liverpool have been Kingsmen. They remember too.

9 PERSONAL HYGIENE.

Keep yourself clean, neat and tidy—by daily washing hands and face and shaving daily. Baths at least once a week and showers as often as possible—that can be every night if you wish. The baths and showers are always open. If you have any difficulty in getting a bath inform your Company Commander.

Proper care of the feet is a most important task. Try to wash daily and dry well between the toes. You can harden them by bathing in cold water using plenty of salt—the cookhouse has plenty—Change your socks daily especially after long marches.

Mend holes in your socks carefully. Don't walk around with holes in them—they give blisters. Don't wear wet socks or boots. Dry the boots slowly in the drying room for preference and rub dubbin thoroughly into them to prevent hardening.

Keep the baths and wash basins clean—after use run some cold water around the basins with your hand. This itself will keep them reasonably clean. Don't get the Shakespearian urge for LATRINOGRAMS they are a poor

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outlet for anything and only show a low mental outlook. If you see someone defacing walls with verse or kind do your duty and report them—otherwise you will have to pay for repainting their " handiwork."

10 DAILY ROUTINE.

Time in the army is told on the 24 hours method, e.g.

8.15 a.m. is 0815 hrs.
12.15 p.m. is 1215 hrs.
3.0 p.m. is 1500 hrs.
8.15 p.m. is 2015 hrs.

Times for parades, meal times, reveille, etc., seldom change. Here they are

Reveille	...	...	0630 hrs.
Breakfast	...	...	0715 hrs.
First Parade	...	...	0815 hrs.
Morning Break		...	1010—1040 hrs.
Lunch ...	...	...	1250—1400 hrs.
Tea ...	...	...	1700 hrs.
Supper	...	...	1915 hrs.
Lights Out	...	...	2300 hrs.

Listen to the bugle calls and ask N.C.Os. and officers what the calls are—memorise them so that when you join the Bn. you will know all the calls which are frequent and very easy to learn. All calls have rhymes and words which are catchy and help memorising easier.

11 SALUTING.

Another mark of a good solder is the manner in which he salutes his own and all officers. A good salute is noted and often talked about amongst officers. Don't pretend to be looking the other way when an officer passes—you always get " caught out." Saluting smartly and promptly shows you are alert which is one of the essential qualities of a good soldier.. Know who you are saluting.

You salute **all** officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Always look the officer straight in the eyes when saluting.

Always salute an army car which is flying a flag—this tells you a high ranking officer is inside.

Find out :

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What the regulation flags are.
How to salute with your hat on, and with it off.
When carrying a rifle.
When riding a bicycle.
What to do if with a party of men without an N.C.O. and an officer approaches.
What to do if sitting down and an officer comes over to you.

Be courteous to civilian friends. Where you would raise your hat if in civilian clothes when meeting a friend, a salute is most effective, greatly appreciated, and a good soldier easily recognised.

12 DISCIPLINE.

Good discipline means the immediate and willing obeying of orders given to you by your officers and N.C.Os. Any army without discipline is useless.

If you have any grievance against an order given—just obey it—afterwards see your Company Commander and make your complaint. If your complaint is justified your Company Commander will take immediate steps to do what is necessary.

13 MILITARY TERMS.

(a) ROUTINE ORDERS.

Issued daily from the Depot Headquarters. Contain instructions regarding administration and parades, etc., within the Barracks. They regulate the daily life of a Unit and reduce correspondence. All ranks must read them daily.

(b) PERMANENT ORDERS.

Contain instructions of a permanent nature generally affecting discipline, and to avoid repetition in Routine orders.

(c) STANDING ORDERS.

Are fixed rules and regulations regarding the conduct and behaviour of all ranks collectively and in their special duties.

(d) DETAIL.

A daily publication on Company Notice Board. Contains necessary instructions, and names of other

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ranks to perform duties and work allotted to the company.

All ranks must read daily.

(e) C.B. AND DEFAULTERS.

C.B. means " Confined to Barracks " and is a punishment awarded to a soldier for breach of discipline.

He is known as a defaulter and must comply with the orders given by the Regimental Provost Police Sergeant. He is not permitted to leave barracks while a defaulter.

(f) ORDERLY ROOM.

Is the central and head office of the unit.

(g) ORDERLY OFFICER.

An officer detailed by the adjutant to ensure the daily duties and work are being carried out correctly within the unit.

(h) REGIMENTAL ORDERLY SERGEANT.

A sergeant detailed by the R.S.M. to assist the Orderly Officer and to carry out certain other regimental duties.

(k) COMPANY ORDERLY SERGEANT.

A senior N.C.O. who is responsible for calling the roll of the company, collecting instructions regarding company duties, etc., and prepares company detail.

(m) COMPANY ORDERLY CORPORAL.

A Junior N.C.O. who assists the Company Orderly Sergeant.

(n) ORDERLY.

A soldier detailed to perform certain duties such as runner, guard orderly, serving meals, etc.

(o) REGIMENTAL OR COMPANY ENTRIES.

A record of punishment awarded to and entered on a soldier's conduct sheet. Up to 7 days C.B. is a company entry awarded generally by your Company Commander. Anything higher is a regimental entry.

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(p) REVEILLE.

Is a time published in Routine Orders at which all troops will get out of bed and commence daily routine. A roll call is taken at Reveille to check the presence of troops. " Reveille " comes from the French word " Reveiller "—" To wake."

(s) TATTOO.

Is a time normally 2130—2200 hrs. when all troops who are not allowed out of barracks either being defaulters or sick will be present when the roll is called. The word " Tattoo " originated from the custom in the Low Countries in sending a party of soldiers with a drummer to beat a tattoo around the public houses and so rouse the men to return to Barracks. The Dutch expression was " Tap Toe " which meant " Close the taps."

(v) RETREAT.

A time when night duties, etc., commence. The time varies according to sunset. Where a Union Jack is flown and lowered at Retreat all ranks stand to attention whilst the Retreat is being sounded.

Retreat originated from the practice in the olden days of closing the gates, raising the drawbridge and withdrawing into the inner walls the main guard.

14 THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS— HARINGTON BARRACKS.

Harington Barracks, named after the late General Sir Charles Harington, a previous Colonel of our Regiment, is the Headquarters of The King's Regiment. Here in the Barracks civilians arrive to join up as you did and become Kingsmen ; and Kingsmen arrive as you eventually will to become civilians. Everything to suit your welfare and convenience has been catered for :

LIBRARY'

There is a library in camp opposite the N.A.A.F.I. and in the Education Centre. (See plan). You may draw books on loan from there between 1730—1900 hrs. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There is no subscription. N.A.A.F.I.

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The Navy, Army and Air Force Institute is marked on the plan. It has a Restaurant, Reading Room, and Billiard Room. You may buy items such as soap, writing material, shaving kit, etc., in addition to tea, cakes, minerals, beer and suppers.

N.A.A.F.I. opening hours are

	1000—1100 hrs.	Sundays	1230—1330 hrs.
Weekdays	1245—1345 hrs.	and	
	1800—2130 hrs.	Holidays	1800—2100 hrs.

BARBER.

The Barber's Shop is marked on the plan. There is a charge of 1/- per month which means you pay 1/6 at the end of your time here for all haircuts you may have. Opening hours are 0900—1800 hrs.

BATHS.

The Bath Houses are marked on the plan. Hot showers are available at all times. Every man must bath at least once per week. There are no limitations to the number you may have.

DRYING ROOM.

If you get your clothes wet on training take them along to the company drying room. The Duty N.C.O. keeps the key for security reasons. Make sure your kit is clearly marked.

EDUCATION.

If you desire to continue your education in the Army there are facilities for taking correspondence courses. The Education Centre will give you all details.

SPORT.

You can play football, hockey, rugby, cricket, tennis, badminton in the proper seasons, also boxing, cross-country running and athletics.

LAUNDRY.

Your laundry is collected once a week—there is no charge. You may send seven articles each week. Make certain everything is marked and check over the articles you have sent with your list. If anything is missing when the laundry comes back report it to the Platoon Sergeant.

MEDICAL OFFICER.

The Medical Officer has consulting hours in the M.I. Room every morning except Sunday, at 0830 hrs.

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The first time you report to the Duty N.C.O. you must take sufficient kit to maintain you in hospital, i.e., your haversack containing Towel, Knife, Fork and Spoon, Soap, Shaving Kit, Socks, Underclothes and Canvas Shoes. You wear your greatcoat in winter months.

If told to return to the M.I. Room for treatment you need not bring your small kit with you.

POSTAL.

Letters and parcels are delivered to you in the Company.

Registered letters and parcels must be collected and signed for at the Camp Post Office.

There are post boxes in the N.A.A.F.I., Dining Hall and Company Office—all are marked on the plan.

TELEPHONE.

There is a public phone box in the hut marked on the plan.

15 YOUR REGIMENT—THE KING'S.

Your Regiment is the eighth oldest Infantry Regiment in the British Army.

In 1685 the Duke of Monmouth organised in the West of England a rebellion against King James II. The King at once issued orders for a number of regiments to be formed in order to supplement his very small army.

Lord Ferrars raised an Infantry Regiment at Derby. This Corps King James ordered to be named The Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment of Foot in honour of his second daughter. The Regiment consisted of ten companies—each company having 3 officers, 3 sergeants, 3 corporals, 2 drummers, 30 private soldiers armed with pikes, and 73 with muskets. All carried in addition a sword.

The uniform consisted of a long scarlet coat and yellow waistcoat and breeches with white stockings and a wide black hat.

After the Rebellion had been crushed the best regiments, including ours, were retained in a permanent "standing" army. Our regiment has continued without a break since that day until now, despite the campaigns and battles in which it has fought in four continents—battles so numerous that for lack of space the majority cannot be recorded on our colours.

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When the Regiment was formed in 1685 it was a single battalion. In 1756 England was in peril of invasion by the French and the Army was increased. The King's received a large number of recruits and a second battalion was formed. The second battalion however was two years later numbered the 63rd and became a separate regiment—now The Manchester Regiment.

Again in 1804 a second battalion was formed which lasted ten years and was disbanded after the peace treaty in 1815. The last 2nd Bn. was formed in 1857 in Ireland.

In 1881 came a great change in the organisation of the Regiment. Heretofore the Regiment had consisted of one or two Bns. of regulars. In this year the old number which had been borne for 130 years was abolished. The Regiment was identified with the City of Liverpool and the local Liverpool Infantry Troops known formerly as Lancashire Militia and Volunteers were added to the King's Regiment as further battalions.

In 1914 when the 1st World War broke out, The King's Regiment consisted of 10 Bns. including 8 Territorial Bns. During this war the Bns. increased until there were actually 45 raised.

In 1939 when the 2nd World War broke out The King's Regiment consisted of 7 Bns. including 5 Territorial Bns.

During this war 11 Bns. took part, serving in India (N.W.F.), Gibraltar, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Burma (Chindits), Cyprus, Norway and North Africa.

16 FORMER DESIGNATIONS OF THE REGIMENT.

1685. Raised as "The Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment of Foot."

1702. In this year Princess Anne became Queen Anne of England. She ordered the title to be altered to "The Queen's Regiment."

1716. By special order of King George I was changed to The King's Regiment and its facings were altered from yellow to Royal Blue.

1751. In this year all infantry regiments were numbered and the title became "8th or The King's Regiment." From now onwards it was called by any of the following names—8th Foot—8th Regiment—8th Kings.

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1881. The number was abolished and the title became " The King's Liverpool Regiment."
1921. Title altered to " The King's Regiment (Liverpool) " which it now is.

17 REGIMENTAL MARCHES.

The King's Regiment have two special marches which are called Regimental Marches. Usually on ceremonial occasions the Regiment marches to these tunes only. No Kingsman, old or new, cannot hear these marches and not be stirred by them. All Kingsmen stand to attention when these tunes are being played.

They are :

HERE'S TO THE MAIDEN,"
ZACHMI DIL."

" The Maiden " was adopted by the Regiment after it became very popular amongst the soldiers and was always sung or whistled on marches. It is now a firm favourite with old and new Kingsmen and likely to remain so. " Zachmi Dil " was a favourite enemy Afghan melody during the Afghan war in 1919. Our 2nd Bn. took part, and after hearing it so often adopted it themselves and play if before " The Maiden."

When marching in ceremonial slow time The King's have " The English Rose " as a march. This was not adopted until 1951, and was selected as the most appropriate tune for the Liverpool Regiment.

18 REGIMENTAL BADGES.

When King George I, in 1716, renamed the Regiment " The King's " he bestowed upon it his own Royal Crest, that of the White Horse of Hanover as a badge. It has been our badge ever since. Even 60 years ago not half the Regiments of the British Army had badges and one hundred odd years ago only a dozen regiments could boast of one.

Let us always remember that this ancient and honourable badge has for more than two and a half centuries been worn by those who have preceeded us in the Regiment—those who have helped to win the innumerable battle honours which embellish our Colours and let us be very certain that we shall never do anything which will bring the White Horse into disgrace.

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With the White Horse goes the motto " NEC ASPER TERRENT " which may be translated " Difficulties be Damned." What finer motto could any soldier wish for ? It is ours to keep and live up to. It is often spoken unknowingly in hundreds of different ways during your service. In Burma in 1944 in answer to a verbal report on the hazards in crossing the Irrawaddy by day, a senior King's officer was heard to reply " Damn the difficulties—bloody-well get across "—and they did, successfully.

When we have a hard task to do, when things are not going well, when the enemy seem to be having the best of it, let us think of our ancient motto and go into it again.

Another badge is the Sphinx. This badge with the word EGYPT was awarded to all regiments who freed Egypt from the French in 1801. It appears on our buttons and crests.

Another badge is the Red Rose. This was the original badge of the Lancashire Militia and was worn as a collar badge from 1882—1895. It was then replaced by the White Horse.

The Royal Cypher appears as a badge on our Regimental Colour in each corner. This is one of the privileges bestowed on the Regiment when we were named The King's.

19 OUR COLOURS.

Colours have been carried by The King's since they were formed in 1685. They were originally carried in battle and formed a rallying point to the regiment. They are renewed when worn out, usually every forty years. New colours are generally presented by a member of the Royal Family or a high personage delegated by them. The present 1st Bn. Colours were presented by King George V at Dublin, in 1910.

The King's Colour is in the form of a Union Jack in the centre of which is a crown and the name of the Regiment. On it are inscribed ten of the battle honours of the 1st World War.

The Regimental Colour is of Royal Blue. In the centre is the White Horse and the name of the Regiment. Around this is a wreath of laurel leaves upon which are the names of the main battle honours except those of the 1st World War. In each corner is the Royal Cypher. The Sphinx and Motto also appear and the Bn. number.

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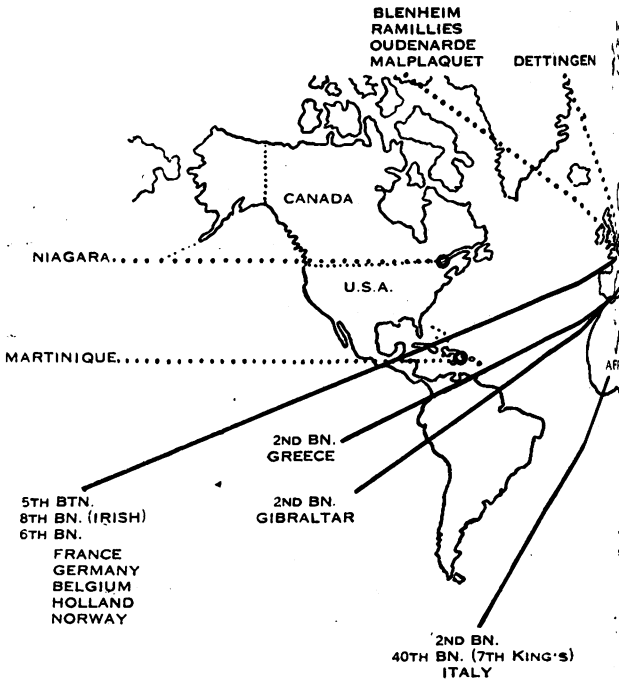
WHERE THE KING'S



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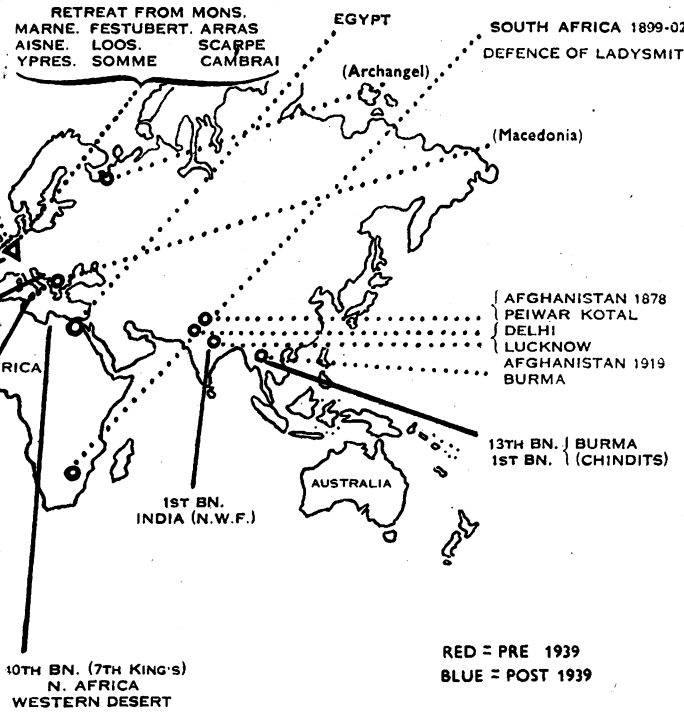

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Both colours are of heavy silk, have been consecrated by Chaplains of every denomination, and are therefore holy. They must be at all times treated with the greatest respect.

When with a Bn., they are kept usually in the Officers' Mess, and uncased only on special occasions.

20 OUR BATTLE HONOURS.

The first 150 years of the Regiment's existence were almost entirely spent on active service. The Regiment fought in Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, Canada, The West Indies and Egypt. It also kept order in Scotland and Ireland.

As is mentioned in a previous chapter " battle honours " are borne on the Colours. These " battle honours " are awarded by the Sovereign to a regiment which has played a gallant part in an important victory or successful campaign.

Few regiments have the honour to possess as many of these rewards as do The King's. In addition The King's, or Detachments of The King's, were engaged in a large number of actions, sieges, and skirmishes, the description of which occupies four large volumes.

Now let us take our battle honours in detail. The first five were fought on the Continent against the French. The real reason we fought France was because of her military strength. We then sided with her enemies and sent our armies across the Channel to join our allies. The results from England's viewpoint were successful.

1704. Blenheim.

The King's (at this time The Queen's) had landed three years previously in Flanders. Most of this time they had been fighting. They were now under Command of The Duke of Marlborough who together with the Dutch and Germans were fighting against French and Bavarians in Germany. On the 13th August The King's with several other Regiments, attacked and routed the French and captured their Commander. This result was most important in the campaign and gained for the British Army a high reputation on the Continent.

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1706. Ramilies.

The British Army was in Holland and advanced under the Duke of Marlborough against a strong force of French and their allies. On the 23rd May they met the French drawn up in line. The British formed line and advanced. The Duke first ordered the left of our line, where the King's were stationed, to attack. The French then sent their reinforcements in this direction. Upon seeing this the Duke ordered the left attack to cease and assailed the French centre with all his remaining force. The French gave way to this action and broke. The King's immediately attacked on the left and the enemy fled leaving large numbers behind. By this victory a big advance was made possible.

1709. Oudenarde.

A large French Army was preparing to attack the fortress at Oudenarde in Flanders. The Duke of Marlborough made a forced march with the British Army and surprised them. The King's who had started the day by building bridges over the river Scheldt, commenced the action in company with three other regiments by attacking seven enemy regiments of Swiss infantry. These they assaulted with such vigour that those who were not killed surrendered. The colours of three Swiss regiments were surrendered to The King's Regiment.

The battle now became general and large numbers of reinforcements on both sides arrived. The King's became the centre of battle and played a very important part. The fighting went on until dark when the French gave way and withdrew leaving behind a large number of prisoners. After this battle the British Army was able to capture various enemy fortresses.

1709. Malplaquet.

The British Army and their Allies, under the Duke of Marlborough, were advancing upon the enemy fortress of Mons. The French had constructed fortifications at Malplaquet to bar this advance. On the 11th September the British Army attacked. The King's took a prominent part in the assault and subsequent fighting in heavily wooded areas. The enemy was driven off and the siege of Mons began. The King's suffered heavy casualties in this action, and their Colonel and Second-in-Command was killed.

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1743. Dettingen.

This battle was fought in Germany. King George II was Commanding the British, Hanovarians and Austrians. On 26th June this army, whilst on the march, met a large French army. King George at once attacked and routed them. The King's led the attack. Their Colonel was wounded and Second-in-Command killed. This is the last time a King of England has personally led his army into battle although King George V was often under fire during the 1st World War and King George VI in the 2nd World War.

The Napoleonic Wars.

From 1793—1815 Britian was again at war with France, who were very powerful and aggressive. Under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, the greatest General the world had produced, they conquered almost all Europe.

They were unable, however, to conquer England, although they assembled a large army with this intention. We had the best Navy, therefore command of the sea.

Due to our Navy we were able to land troops in the French colonies accross the seas and capture almost all of them.

1801. Egypt.

The French had occupied Egypt with a very strong army and had intended with this to conquer the East. The British formed an expedition which sailed to Egypt. On 8th March the troops landed from troopships near Alexandria. They were rowed to the shore in boats by the sailors, while the ships of the Navy fired upon the French, who were lined up on the beach to oppose the landing. The landing was successful and the French fell back. A few days later the British Army advanced on to Alexandria and two severe actions were fought in which the King's played a prominent part. The King's, now 8th Foot, suffered heavy casualties, and the Army Commander, Sir Ralph Abercromby, was killed. The French were driven back .

The King's, after this, with other regiments, advanced up the banks of the River Nile driving the French before them. In June they reached the Pyramids and camped near them. A few days later they entered Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and the French surrendered.

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King George III was so pleased with this expedition that he ordered all the regiments who took part to have the Sphinx placed on their colours.

1809. Martinique.

The French occupied Martinique, an island in the West Indies. In 1809 the King's with other troops sailed from Canada to capture it from the French, and landed in Martinique on 30th January.

After fierce fighting in which the King's Colonel was killed, the French surrendered.

Amongst the enemy troops were the French 8th Regiment who surrendered to the 8th King's. These two regiments had opposed each other earlier in Alexandria.

The King's took the Eagle (French flag) and their brass drums. The Eagle was presented to King George III but the drums were kept by The King's.

1814. Niagara.

In 1812 the U.S.A. declared war against Britain, who would not allow U.S.A. ships into French ports with supplies. We were at war then with France.

The King's had two battalions in Canada. America attempted to conquer Canada and during 1812–13–14, the 1st Bn. had 15 engagements with American troops and the 2nd Bn. one. In all these engagements the King's fought magnificently and won great praise.

On 25th July, 1814, a particularly bloody battle took place near the famous waterfalls on the Niagara River. For this the battle honour was awarded.

It is interesting to note that on account of the very gallant defence of Toronto by the King's in 1813, the Canadian Toronto Regiment applied to be allied to the King's. This request was granted.

The Indian Mutiny.

Two battle honours were earned in India. In 1847 a large portion of the Indian native regiments revolted. They murdered their British Officers, and all the white population they could lay their hands on, and set up a native as King of Delhi. The 1st Bn. King's were in Lahore when the mutiny began. A month later they were ordered to Delhi, where a British force was assembling, in order to capture the city.

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Delhi was the headquarters of the mutineers who numbered many thousands within its walls.

1857. Delhi.

For three months, the hottest of an Indian summer, the King's fought outside Delhi. Eventually the walls were breached, and although heavily outnumbered the King's at once attacked. They suffered heavy casualties, for during the next week took part in severe fighting to drive the mutineers out of Delhi house by house. Delhi was finally cleared and reinstated as India's Captial City.

1857. Lucknow.

After Delhi, the King's fought at Agra for two months. There they defended the city successfully. In November they marched to relieve the Lucknow Garrison, who were being beseiged by the enemy. After this the Regiment was sadly depleted. They were ordered to Agra for rest and reorganisation. It is interesting to note that throughout this most arduous campaign the administrative details never failed and where other regiments often went short of food, The King's always managed to serve a meal.

"NEC ASPER TERRENT."

1878–80. Afghanistan.

In 1877 the 2nd Bn. sailed for India. Within 6 months the Afghan War broke out.

The King's marched to Kohat where a column assembled under the famous General Roberts. On the 21st November the colomn began its advance on Kabul. The King's fought many actions and remained in Afghan territory for two years.

1878. Peiwar Kotal.

Seven days after crossing the frontier General Roberts contacted the enemy. After a weary 21 miles march in mountainous country the Afghans were found to be holding a 9,000 ft. mountain range Peiwar Kotal. It was an impregnable position and defended by 5,000 enemy.

On 1st December, at 2200 hrs., General Roberts, with 5 regiments and 2 batteries, left camp, and after a long and difficult night march reached the right flank in densely wooded heights.

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At 0500 next morning The King's and 5th Punjab Infantry, with only 5 guns, advanced frontally against the Afghans.

Thinking he had only to work his way along the ridge he was occupying, to capture the enemy position, General Roberts gave the order to the King's to attack at 0800 hrs. This frontal attack was only a ruse whilst the real attacking force was under General Roberts.

The King's and Punjab Infantry, under cover of their 5 guns, attacked, expecting General Roberts force to come into action in a short while. So dense was the wooded heights that the 5 P.I. lost direction and wandered away from the Afghan position, leaving the King's to attack the enemy stronghold.

Colonel Barry Drew was commanding the King's and he ordered the advance. Under the most intense enemy fire The King's crossed one mile of mountain ridge to within 800 yards of the enemy position. So accurate was the King's rifle fire that within a few minutes the guns were silenced.

The regiment primed up for the assault at 1430 hrs. and after passing through long lines of silent enemy reached the enemy position to find the Afghans had fled leaving all their stores behind.

The column under General Roberts could not even reach the Kotal because of the tricky mountain country, and so The King's remained victors alone.

The Commander-in-Chief in India, when addressing the battalion, said " Soldiers of The King's Regiment. Now that I have seen the ground you have attacked over and taken, I think you have done wonders."

1885–87. Burma.

The 2nd Bn. King's were stationed in Calcutta, India, and in November, 1885, sailed for Burma, navigating the great River Irrawaddy as part of the Expeditionary Force against King Thebaw. For 18 months the Bn. fought in Upper Burma and because of the numerous posts and detachments that were commanded by junior officers it became known as the " Subalterns' War " Nearly half the Bn. were killed or wounded in 18 months. A fine brass cannon was captured and presented to the Regimental Depot.

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1899–1902. South Africa.

The Transvaal and Orange Free State were two republics in South Africa governed by Boers descendents of Dutch settlers.

Owing to the way Englishmen in those States were treated Britain declared war in 1899. The 1st Bn. King's were then stationed in Natal, South Africa. For 3 years they fought the Boers, and notably distinguished themselves in the Siege of Ladysmith. The 3rd and 4th Militia Bns. fought later in South Africa. Two extra regular Bns. were raised in Ireland, but later were disbanded.

A company composed of Volunteers from the present 5th, 6th and 7th Bns. King's Territorials fought with the 1st Bn.

For the first time in Empire History, the great Colonies sent detachments to join the Imperial Army.

The Boers were very tough and expert opponents, and later during the 1st World War fighting, proved very valuable allies.

1899. Defence of Ladysmith.

Ladysmith, in Natal, was the headquarters of the King's when fighting broke out. They were surrounded and entirely cut off by the Boers on 2nd November, 1899.

The King's and several other regiments were beseiged by very superior forces, and powerful artillery. For 4 months, constantly attacked and living on what rations existed amongst them, they repelled the enemy and even made sorties against them. Horse meat was the only meat left and at a greatly reduced scale during the latter stages of the siege.

The Garrison was relieved on 3rd March, 1900. This action is chiefly memorable for the privations endured, the hard work, and very poor food.

1914–1918. The 1st World War.

This war commenced by Germany and Austria attacking France, Belgium and Russia. Britain allied herself with France knowing that militaristic Germany had eyes on Britain and its Empire. Later Italy became an Ally and Turkey a foe.

This war changed the complex of all other wars.

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1. A vast number of troops from many countries were used.
2. The different countries where fighting took place, Europe, Asia Minor, Iraq, Egypt, China, Africa, and N.W.F., India.
3. It became a mechanical war.
4. An enormous number of casualties including those first time gas fatalities.
5. The fearful climatic conditions during trench warfare.

The British Empire supported England immediately she declared war on Germany.

The King's expanded to 45 Bns. and fought in all countries.

Altogether from the 1st World War 60 battle honours were awarded to The King's ; of these however only 10 are worn on the Colours.

This war lasted 4 years and at times things looked very grim—however we never gave in and in the end we won. The King's Regiment finished the war by marching into Germany with their Colours flying and were billetted on the Rhine.

1914. Retreat from Mons.

No sooner had the first British Army landed to meet the Germans at Mons than it had to retire. The Germans were stronger than was originally thought and after the French on our right had withdrawn so did we to avoid being cut off. The 1st King's took part in the retreat which lasted 13 horrible days of fighting endurance. Had the troops been less well trained and had they not the British characteristic of cheeriness in adversity the British Army would have been smashed.

The King's Regiment excelled in march discipline and during the retreat very few amongst thousands fell out of the line of march.

1914. Marne.

On the 5th September the retreat ended, and the advance began. On the 9th September the King's crossed the River Marne and attacked the German defences. They captured 500 of the 39th Prussian Fusiliers, and took their drums and bugles as mementos of this battle.

1914. Aisne.

The British Army continued its advance and on 14th

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September 1st King's crossed the River Aisne on bridges made by the Royal Engineers—the original having been destroyed by the enemy.

On the high ground beyond the river the armies met and fought hard throughout that day.

That night both armies dug in—Trench warfare had really commenced.

1914, 15 and 17. Ypres.

In October, 1914, the 1st King's were fighting superior enemy forces and denying them the Channel Ports. The British Army was successful but the King's lost heavily in casualties and their Colonel was killed. On the 11th November they were attacked by 3 Bns. Prussian Guard, but successfully beat them off with rifle fire and caused considerable casualties.

In 1915 four other Bns. King's fought in this "Ypres Salient." It was here, incidentally, that the Germans first used poison gas—April 1915.

In 1917 the 165 Brigade, consisting of the King's Territorial Bns., captured several German positions near Ypres, and helped considerably in finally making the Germans give way and lose.

The name Ypres means to old Kingsmen "Difficulties be damned." For four years we refused to give in, and defended it to our utmost. Although a most difficult position to defend we made up our minds to stay and we did, despite the unsuitability of the ground and the costly efforts of the Germans to take the town.

1915. Festubert.

The battle lasted from 15th–25th May, and in it the 1st, 5th and 7th King's played a prominent part. They captured a number of trenches from the Germans and inflicted very heavy loss of enemy. The King's, however, did not escape unscathed and had 1,300 casualties. The 4th King's took part in the battle.

1915. Loos.

At the end of 1915 the Allies hoped to break through the trench system. On 5th September a very large attack was made which included 10 Bns. King's. The attack was preceded by an artillery bombardment which lasted 4 days

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on the German trenches. The attack was not successful, although we captured Loos and the majority of the German positions. On 8th October the enemy counter-attacked, but was beaten off with severe loss of life.

1916–1918. Somme.

At the beginning of 1916 the Allies' trenches stretched from Switzerland to the sea. The Germans were concentrating on a large scale attack against the French at Verdun. The British decided to attack in order to relieve the pressure at Verdun and to cause as many casualties as possible.

A large area near the River Somme was selected and from July till November the British attacked various German positions. 14 Bns. King's took part in these attacks. Huge concentrations of artillery fire were used, and tremendous casualties caused. In one attack the 1st King's were ordered to capture the village of Guillemont. They attacked with 3 companies and were successful. The regiments on their flanks, however, failed to advance and the King's were cut off. The King's stayed there and died fighting to the last, surrounded by overwhelming odds rather than give up what they had won.

Tanks, a British invention, were first used in these Somme Battles.

In the spring of this year the Germans finally drove the British from the ground they had won in 1916.

In August, however, the tables were turned and the final victorious advance began. All the Somme area was recovered and the Germans driven back. Many King's Bns. were in this final advance.

1917–1918. Arras.

In the spring of 1917 Field Marshal Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief, decided to attack the Germans east of Arras, a town in France. The attack began at daybreak 8th April and we drove the enemy back steadily for one month. During this time we captured 250 guns and 20,000 Germans. Of the many King's Bns. which took part, was the 89 Brigade, The City of Liverpool Bde.

1917–1918. Scarpe.

The town of Arras is on the River Scarpe. There were so many battle fought in and around Arras and River Scarpe that both were given as battle honours.

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In September, 1918 when, in the final stage of the war the British were driving the enemy along the River Scarpe back into Germany, all the territorials took part.

1917–1918. Cambrai.

In autumn 1917 Field Marshal Haig thought a surprise attack on Cambrai might gain a position 10 miles within the main German lines.

Usually an attack was preceded by an artillery bombardment, thereby giving the enemy warning of an attack. This time there was no artillery.

At 6.0 a.m., on 20th November, infantry and tanks advanced on a 6-mile front. For 10 days the attack went on and we were near Cambrai. On 30th November large reinforcements of Germans arrived and our attack halted but despite repeated hammering we did not go back. Although we did not capture Cambrai, we recovered a large area of ground, and captured 150 guns and 10,000 German prisoners.

Of the King's Bns. which took part, mention must be made of the 1st King's. When large German forces counter-attacked they stood firm for 3 days, and refused to budge even though the Bn. on their right was broken through.

Finally in September 1918, after sever fighting, Cambrai fell to the British, the Germans having lost 460 guns and 36,000 prisoners. All the Territorial Bns. and several other King's Bns. took part in this fighting.

1919. Afghanistan.

In May 1919 the Amir of Afghanistan made an unprovoked attack on India. The British Army immediately drove his troops back across the border and followed them to administer punishment.

The 2nd Bn. King's at that time were the most experienced and best trained Bn. in mountain warfare. They fought the Afghans on Taba Plateau, 8,000 high, and commenced the advance to Kandahar. The Armistice of 8th August ceased this operation.

23. THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

Again Germany were the aggressors and under the leadership of ex-painter Adolf Hitler, started the conquest of Europe. Britain, who had pacts with some European

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countries, warned Germany that an invasion of Poland would bring Britain into the conflict. In 1939 Germany marched into Poland and Britain declared war on Germany. Then followed a period of warfare unparalleled in history. Italy, and Japan allied themselves with Germany, whilst Russia, France, China, America, and nearly all the other smaller countries in the world allied themselves with Britain. Europe was completely overrun and Germany advanced on Moscow. The war then between Germany and Russia became a private affair, as it were, and the hardships endured on both sides were indescribable. Russia finally took the initiative and commenced pushing the Germans back to Berlin.

Japan planned the entire occupation of Asia and got off to a good start conquering Malaya, Burma, Siam, the Pacific Islands, and nearly half of China before being checked. The British, American and Australian troops played a prominent part in driving the Japanese out until they finally capitulated. The Japanese, an Imperialistic race, had never been beaten in battle before or surrendered. Their belief in a glorious death was that of hari-kari (suicide with one's own sword) on the battlefield.

Britain and her allies planned an Invasion of the Continent in 1944 which was entirely successful, and the remains of the German army surrended in 1945.

The 2nd World War was a war of machines, tanks, aeroplanes, warships, submarines, artillery, and assumed gigantic proportions. Where in 1914-1918 people stayed in trenches for years, here mobility played a most successful part.

For the first time in history the Americans used an Atomic Bomb on Japan causing 80,000 deaths in one city area.

The King's had 11 Bns. during the 2nd World War, and were in numerous heroic battles that are already engraved in the memory of time. No battle hounors have so far been awarded to any British Regiment, but presumably they will be in the future. The most famous battles the Bns. took part in were :

1st Bn.—Long Range Penetration Campaign behind the Japanese lines after being flown there by gliders. They were called "Chindits" and their leader General Wingate,

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who was killed during the campaign. By their determination and endurance the King's undermined the Japanese morale and cut his lines of communications thereby forcing the Japanese to withdraw his front line troops to deal with the King's.

2nd Bn.—Defence of Gibraltar, up to 1943.

The attack on Italy, storming of Cassino and Liberation of Rome.

The Italian campaign was very mobile but the King's stuck there till the end and although often under some terrible bombardments never once gave in, and fought on.

5th Bn.—" D " Day 1944. The Landing on the Normandy Beaches.

A masterpiece of timing, administration and fire support, when British troops went ashore from ships to attack—retake the continent. Endurance was the most important factor here and the King's were subjected to incessant bombing raids from the all powerful German Luftwaffe. (Air Force).

8th (Irish) Bn.—" D " Day 1944. The Landing on the Normandy Beaches. The 8th Bn. was disbanded in 1944.

13th Bn.—Like the 1st Bn., were Chindits. They, however, were the first penetration force to get behind the enemy lines and proved to an unbelieving world that the Japanese were not invincible in battle.

6th Bn.—(38th A.A. Regt.).—Were reformed in January 1945 as Infantry (635 (King's) Regt., R.A. Landed in Norway. Disbanded in 1945.

40th Bn., R.T.R. (7 Bn.).—Took part as a tank force in all fighting in the Western Desert, North Africa and later landed in Italy. Conspicuous in the fighting at Salerno 1943 and the Volturno Battles.

They were reformed as infantry in 1944.

During the 2nd World War many Kingsmen were decorated for gallantry in battle. There were :

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C.B.	...	2	D.S.O.		8
C.B.E.	...	6	D.C.M.		9
O.B.E.	...	6	M.C.	...	18
M.B.E.	...	11	M.M.	...	22
			G.M.	...	2
			Mention		31

In addition many allied decorations were awarded to Kingsmen.

24 THE VICTORIA CROSS—OUR HEROES.

This is the highest decoration it is possible for a serviceman of any rank to receive. It is only awarded for an act in war of the greatest possible gallantry. The following V.Cs. have been awarded to heroes of the King's Regiment.

Cpl. H. J. KNIGHT	1st Bn.	South Africa	1900
Sgt. H. HAMPTON	1st Bn.	,, ,,	1900
Pte. W. HEATON	1st Bn.	,, ,,	1900
L/Cpl. J. TOMBS	1st Bn.	Flanders	1915
Lieut. E. F. BAXTER	8th Bn.	,,	1916
Sgt. D. JONES	12th Bn.	,,	1916
Pte. A. H. PROCTOR	6th Bn.	,,	1916
Capt. O. A. REID	40th Bn.	Mesopotamia	1917
Pte. J. T. COUNTER	1st Bn.	Flanders	1918

All ranks should recognise the deep red ribbon of the Victoria Cross and salute the holder irrespective of rank.

25. LIVERPOOL—OUR CITY.

Never forget that Liverpool is our City and that we are Liverpool's Regiment.

Take a pride in our fine city and it will take a pride, through you, in its famous regiment.

Although every recruit may not come from Liverpool before he joins up, there is a chance that he may settle there after leaving the colours.

The headquarters of the Regimental Comrades' Association is in Harington Bks., Formby, and they are in constant touch with Liverpool employers of labour—often themselves old Kingsman.

Liverpool has spent thousands of pounds on welfare for Liverpool servicemen during and in between the two World Wars.

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Remember Liverpool contains thousands of men who wore the White Horse in the wars—therefore when you are walking in Liverpool remember the orders for dress—be specially correct in your turnout and behaviour. Old Kingsmen are critical—ask some of them.

Let them see that their Old Regiment still is the smartest and best behaved in the British Army.

26. OUR COLONEL—
LT.-GEN A. D. WARD, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Lt.-Gen Ward was appointed Colonel of the Regiment on 1st April, 1947.

Commissioned 31st January, 1929, and promoted Captain in The King's Regiment, January 1937.

He was awarded the D.S.O. in Italy in 1944 when commanding 17 Infantry Bde.

He was awarded the C.B.E. when commanding the 4 British Infantry Division in 1944–45. (Italy and Greece).

He was appointed a C.B. when Chief of Staff, A.F.H.Q., in 1946.

In the field of sport he has been an army champion sprinter in 100 and 220 yards and won the Inter-services Team Championships in 1929. He also was an excellent Rugby player.

THE COMRADES—OUR ASSOCIATION.

The Comrades' Association exists for the benefit of Kingsmen, past, present and to come. Nowadays the Association solve all problems. Before the war they were able to offer every Kingsman a job on leaving the colours. Just now employment everywhere is easy to find and the Association will get a job for you when you leave the Regular Army, if you require one. Benefits given by the Association to members as a loan or gift are numerous and confidential. Meetings, reunions, parades, etc., are arranged regularly to everyone's enjoyment and benefit. Subscriptions are very small and can be paid quarterly or yearly or a life membership. Your Company Commander will give you any further information you may desire.

All Regular Kingsmen should be members.

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THE KINGSMAN—OUR JOURNAL.

The King's Regiment has its own Journal, your own magazine called the "Kingsman." It is produced half-yearly and contains up-to-date news of all serving members, everywhere, and includes Bn. notes from the T.A. Units and Cadet Forces. Contributions of literature are eagerly accepted and published. The Kingsman can be bought through Comrades' Association subscriptions.

OUR TRIUMPH.

Every good soldier is a good sportsman. The King's have always been a regiment of good sportsmen.

Every Kingsman should excel at some form of sport. He has the choice of Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Boxing, Running, Shooting, etc. When you become a Kingsman select at least one of these sports and master it. Let your company and battalion look to you as a certainty in some Bn. team.

Remember always, whether winning or losing, **A Kingsman is always a sportsman** and a sportsman is one who plays the game for the games sake, plays for his side and not for himself. Is a good winner and a good loser, e.i. modest in victory and generous in defeat. Accepts all decisions in a proper spirit and never question the referee's decision. Is chivalrous towards a defeated opponent. Is unselfish and always ready to help others to become proficient.

As a spectator applauds good play on both sides.

A FINAL WORD—OUR AIM.

Our Aim is to be at all times good Kingsmen, and once a good Kingsman it is hard to stop being one, whether in uniform or out of it. A regimental march will always stir your blood, and reports on regimental affairs, and parades will always arouse interest and reminiscences. Whenever you meet serving Kingsmen you will always be welcome and at all times you will be an asset to the Regiment. After the epic battles in the jungles of Burma in 1944 the Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill, said "England is grateful to the Kings'." During your colour service give of your best and only your best, so that when you leave army life the "King's can be grateful to you."

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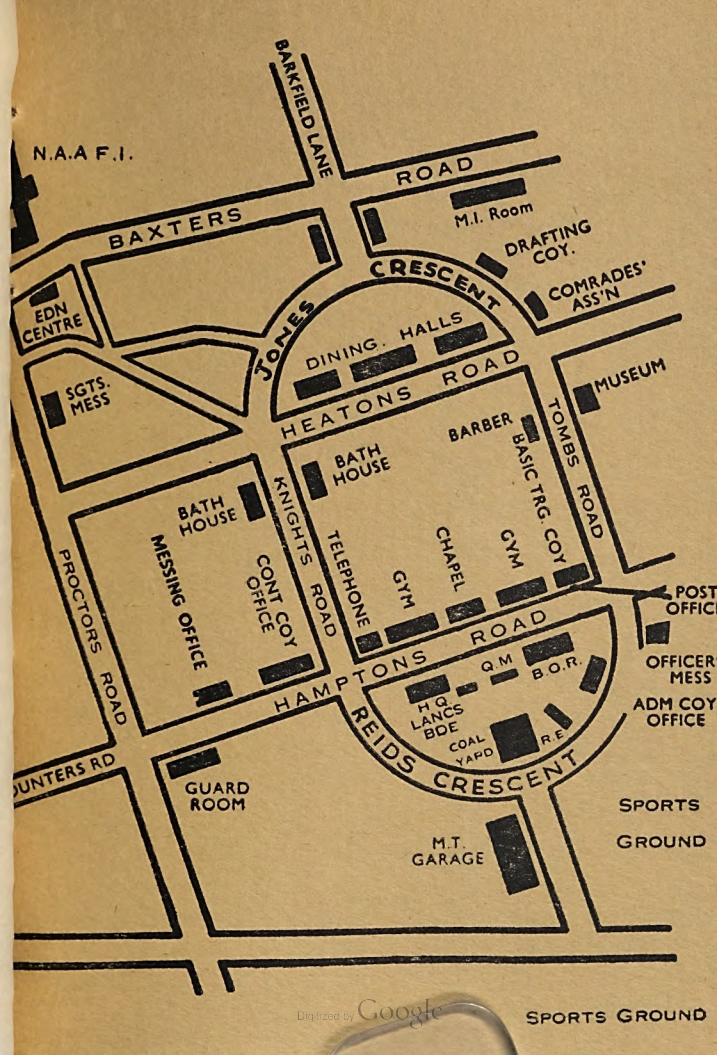

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"ONE O' ONE DURHAM"

BY

Major W. M. PATTERSON,

M.B.E., H.G.,

Commanding Officer.

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Xtra cand. Dornbusch.

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"ONE O' ONE DURHAM"

BEING THE SHORT LIFE STORY OF

101 (Durham) Home Guard

ROCKET ANTI AIRCRAFT

BATTERY

BY

Major W. M. PATTERSON,
M.B.E H.G.,
Commanding Officer.

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The Story of "One O' One Durham"

FOREWORD.

For over 2 years I had the honoured privilege of commanding a unit of a large number of my friends and neighbours. In the Home Guard, leadership consisted of example and persuasion; we had no real disciplinary powers. The success of a Unit and the happiness and enthusiasm of the men very largely depended upon the Officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.Os. In our Unit I claim we achieved success, happiness and enthusiasm and I would like to pay my tribute to those who made it possible. The Officers were grand and never faltered and the Warrant Officers were in the best tradition. They and the "Quarter Blokes" had arduous and often irksome responsibilities but their example and industry were inspiring. It is a truism that the British Army relies to a very large extent on the N.C.O. His position in the Regular Army is difficult enough; he has to live with men and yet lead and govern them. But the Regular N.C.O. has the advantage of a system of discipline behind him. The H.G. N.C.O. had a ticklish job. Shall we ever forget that band of devoted N.C.Os. on manning nights, on training and on those Sunday mornings when they turned up with or without excuse? We were fortunate. In the following pages I wish to avoid discrimination and the mentioning of names, as far as possible, because so many individuals are worthy of mention that this little book could not cope with it. But all of us at Headquarters knew of the work put in and had cause to be grateful. Ordinarily this book is

S. & B MAY 31 '51

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for those who served in the Battery to remind them of many happy days and a few thrilling ones. It is a story of service by ordinary Tyneside men who made, we consider, " One O' One Durham " the finest Home Guard Unit in Anti Aircraft Command. Even the Officers, W.O's. and N.C.O's. could not have made this possible unless they had been backed up, as they were in very deed backed up by hundreds of really hearty Gunners.

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CHAPTER 1.

Tyneside had in 1939 an excellent Civil Defence Organization. To it flocked most of the men who served in the 1914-1918 War. This is said because there is no doubt the spirit of 1914-1918 inspired the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers, later the Home Guard. Enemy air bombardment in this area began in earnest in June 1940, and went on until May 1943. Many men were in Civil Defence when the L.D.V. was formed in June 1940, and they could not then get release to change their blue for khaki. We can recall the raids of the Autumn 1940, the winter of 1940-41; those long sleepless nights of March and April 1941, and so on. South Shields had particular reason to remember September and October 1941. Britishers, generally are inclined to scoff at the warlike bloke but nevertheless he is not brought up in the tradition of turning the other cheek. We are not a very numerous nation in these Islands. By 1941 the man power problem had arrived. Large forces of men were required for service overseas but a considerable force had to be left at home, particularly for Anti-Aircraft work. The Government saw in the belligerent mood of the civilians an opportunity to ease the army position and free members of regular soldiers for service in the field. Liverpool was it is believed, the first area to suggest to the War Office that Home Guard Anti-Aircraft Batteries should be formed. The question of weapons was a difficulty; it would take time and expense to provide the heavy anti aircraft guns and train Home Guardsmen on them. By 1941 there was in full production a secret weapon known as the "Z" projector capable of firing one round at a time. This was quickly improved into a "twin" firing two rounds and this was the weapon the War Office was looking for. In the Spring of 1942, the estab-

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lishment of H.G. "Z" Batteries was approved, consisting of 1,600 officers and men. (This was later reduced by 150). These men were to be trained and take duty one night in eight. The manning detachment was to have 64 projectors to fire a salvo of 128 rounds. "This was it." Our Establishment came through in April 1942.

The men were to be recruited voluntarily and the first recruiting meeting was held in South Shields in April 1942, when the response was immediate and enthusiastic. Thereafter, full publicity was laid on in the Press, on the Platform and on the hoardings. The C.O. and his Administrative Officer and other Officers and N.C.Os. too) went all over South Shields, Jarrow, Hebburn and Gateshead. They spoke in shipyard and factory, canteens, Town Halls, Church Halls, Police Stations and even in the street. The Mayors, public men and employers were all helpful. We shall not forget the Tram Shed meeting at midnight; or the meeting on pay day at the Corporation yard when we were heckled until the heckler was dealt with by the men themselves! Great days those and happy memories. In September 1942, we were told voluntary recruiting must stop but it came too late; we had knocked out our first target because we had the 1,600 men we had set out for. Let us not forget we started as a wholly volunteer Unit, because it was from these men our spirit was born, lived on until "stand easy" and gave us the pre-eminent place we took at the start and never lost.

From the beginning of the Unit we passed **2,744** men through our hands; of these **1,485** were on the strength at stand easy. The balance of **1,259** were dealt with by **329** going to the forces or Merchant Navy, **266** were transferred to other H.G. Units and **664** were discharged for ill health, change of work,

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excessive work hours and other reasons. It will be seen what a big organisation was required, and yet we never had more then four paid people employed full time on the job.

After voluntary recruitment stopped we got our reinforcements direct from the Ministry of Labour. This was later changed and they came from the H.G. General Service Battlaions. It would be ungenerous to allow this occasion to pass without a word of thanks to our feeder Battalions. The 8th Durham Bn. of South Shields must have viewed us with mixed feelings and strange oaths because we were ever a thorn in their flesh. We had much to be thankful for to the C.O's. of the 8th and 25th Battalions of the Durham H.G.

Rockcliffe at Westoe Village was requisitioned for our H.Q. In the early months of the Battery strange scenes were enacted there and it was a terribly busy place. The queues were never ending and no doubt some men were enrolled who joined the queue thinking it was for unrationed food. We hope they never regretted this mistake because they got the food alright. The early days were hectic, the proper forms were not to hand and the paid staff consisted only of a young Regular Officer and our charming friend, Mrs. Hymers. But we were all in good heart and any old piece of paper was used to record what clothing and equipment was issued. Yet, when life became orderly and system prevailed, it was surprising how few mistakes had been made. The Regular soldiers looked better dressed in those days too, but no names no pack drill. How everything was coped with is a mystery but we got through. Training was in full swing, the Regulars putting in all they knew and, towards the end of June 1942, it dawned upon us at B.H.Q. that soon our first manning detachment would be taking over. But that is another story.

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Our aim was twofold, yet bound up together. We set out to have a crack at the Bosche and to relieve Regular Soldiers for more active duties. We did both.

CHAPTER 2.

It was a thing to be proud of that in a few short weeks co-operation between the Regulars and ourselves was of such a character that whilst we were enrolling and clothing men by the hundred, training was going on so well that the first manning troop of our men went in on 20th July, 1942. A troop went in every night after that so in less than 12 weeks from zero we had over 300 men trained and on the weapons. But let us not forget to pay tribute to the men themselves; only their wonderful spirit made it possible. The first troops were those of the old A relief and numbered 1 to 8. On 14th September, 1942, we started B relief, troops 1 to 8 and thereafter we manned two troops a night, which meant we had about 600 trained men. When we say trained, we mean it because they were "vetted" by the Regular Officers and N.C.O's. Another milestone was on 30th September, 1942, when 8 H.G. Officers were appointed Plotting Officers and took their places in the Control Room. Of these 8 Officers, 5 were on duty at the end; 1 left to be made a Captain; 1 went to another Rocket Battery as Plotting Officer and the third was transferred to a General Service Unit nearer his home. On 13th October, 1942, "C" relief came on duty and on 24th October, 1942, "D" relief came in. By that time we were usually manning 3 troops a night and sometimes 4. Added to this, the plotting room staff of H.Gs. was on duty each night. We must not forget the "spotters"; those youngsters who were too young to fire weapons but were determined to be in the picture. Most of them took an active part later on with great

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credit and enthusiasm. Until the end of December 1942, we had 4 reliefs with 8 troops and each relief had 2 Captains. On 11th January, 1943, we reorganised the Battery into 8 Reliefs, Nos. 1 to 8 with 4 troops each, A. B. C. & D. and they started off under these designations on 1st February, 1943. By the end of April 1943, each of the 8 reliefs had 4 troops except No. 3 and they had their fourth troop on 26th May, 1943. Modesty forbids us to comment on this achievement. We must not forget that wastage (casualties) were going on all the time and men were being constantly trained to fill the gaps. The men at Rockcliffe always had their hands full—"What hands—and what a grasp."

The name of the Unit was changed twice. We mustered as "the 2nd Tyneside A.A. Battery H.G."; on 30th July, 1942, we were renamed "101 Durham H.G. "Z" A.A. Battery" and on 20th May, 1944, we became "101 Durham H.G. Rocket A.A. Battery."

It is only equity that the names of the Battery Captains should be recorded and from No. 1 to 8 Relief they were Capt. W. Wood, Capt. H. Rutledge; Capt. W. Summerbell and later Capt. T. R. H. Mason; Capt. A. Merriman and later Capt. J. F. O. Fenwick; Capt. W. A. Carruthers, Capt. E. Johnson, D.C.M., Capt. J. Topping and Capt. W. E. Mearns.

We were at "Stand to" 38 times, the first time being one of our first manning nights; we were in action 14 times; we were credited with destroying or sharing in destroying 6 German Planes and the dates and reliefs were:—14th December, 1942, No. 4 Troops of A, B, C, Reliefs; 11th March, 1943 (one category 1 and one Catergory 2) No. 7 Relief; 22nd March, 1943 (2 Kills) No. 2 Relief and 16th May, 1943, No. 8 Relief

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Other battle honours were that No. 7 Relief under Capt. Topping (the Jarrow and Hebburn lads) won the Priestman Cup for the Unit on 9th June, 1944. This was a trophy awarded by Major J. L. Priestman M.C., (second in command 8th H.G. A.A. Regt.) to the best battery in the 8th Regt. As no other Unit ever won it, Capt. Topping, by the kindness of Major Priestman, is now the proud holder of the cup.

On 29th June, 1944, B.S. Meek of No. 1 Relief was presented with the Certificate of Meritorious Service by the Brigade Commander. There was no doubt it was fully earned. Later on, we were greatly pleased by the award of four Certificates to R.S.M. Simpson, D.C.M., M.M.; B.S.M. Newlands; B.Q.M.S. Busby and B.Q.M.S. Rice.

By the early autumn of 1943 our numbers had been very much depleted particularly by the calls of the services and the transfers of men in industry to other parts of the country. Experience of night shift workers, miners, bus drivers and so on taught us we could not expect too much from them and many had to be discharged or transferred to G.S. Units. "G.S." let it be remembered means General Service or Infantry Units. Some of them did not go readily and there were some infuriated "deputations" to be dealt with. This loss of men persisted to the end and Capt. Wood bore the brunt of the heavy training programme which lasted nearly a year. It is regretted that space prevents the naming of all the officers, W.O's. and N.C.Os'. who helped him. It was a tremendous job but they did it and were still going strong at "Stand easy."

Brains were constantly tickled up to find new means to provide rivalry as to best attendance. So the attendance board was born and with it a party of Senior

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Wranglers who checked and re-checked decimal points with ferocious gravity. Woe to the poor C.O. or Admin'. Officer if the mathematics went astray. It created great rivalry, good results and much fun. It was perhaps poetic justice that the name of No. 1 Relief should figure prominently on "the Board." As Capt. Wood commanded this relief and also had most to do with the recruits, he had to bear with much that was facetious on the co-relation of his two jobs with successful attendance results.

In March 1944, the H.G. was allowed to "put up" service chevrons and wound stripes. Those who could get their women folk to play made a brave display.

On 14th September 1944, we issued our last Battery orders. Each relief was there, serving and well trained, and the attendance percentages were excellent.

Perhaps we should now lift the veil and let the wives and mothers in on some of the secrets of "manning nights." They must have often wondered why on good day, bad day, their menfolk were out of the house before seven at night—all polished up and somewhere to go. Let us repeat that the men who were trained came on duty one night in eight. They were in their own troop, with their own pals, and in their own Relief Battery, which consisted of 4 troops and a plotting detachment. The Officer establishment per relief were a Captain; a Lieut. who commanded the Plotting team and 4 other subalterns, one per troop. Each relief had a Sergeant Major, Quarter Master Sergeant and at least 5 Sergeants and other junior N.C.O's. The total number was about 170 per night. The reliefs were independent of Headquarters to a large extent, particularly regarding attendance and clothing requirements. Attendance was kept up to a high pitch by personal contact on the part of

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Relief Officers and N.C.O'S. The really tough guys came up against Headquarters. Let it be said at once that only personal contact and understanding of a man's difficulties really paid dividends.

Now just in case your wife wants you to knock off, or it is time to go to work, (or to the Adam and Eve) we'll start a fresh chapter.

But is is a cheerful thought that we only had two men before the Magistrates in all our long life and no Courts Martial.

CHAPTER 3.

On manning nights in the light nights we paraded at "Rockcliffe," just after 7 p.m. and marched to the Battery. In dark days we fell in at the Drill Hall at the Battery. There were 2 Reliefs from Gateshead and one from Jarrow and Hebburn. These men gathered at assembly points and were picked up by buses. Except, of course, for that period, short but long enough, when Army lorries were laid on. Perhaps that is too painful to dwell upon, especially for the casualties. The Reliefs fell in by troops under their own Officers and marched as a Battery to the gun site. There were orderly Officers and N.C.O's. At the site huts were taken over in the orthodox manner. Afterwards there was a training programme and round about 9 o'clock everybody had a hot meal of meat and vegetables, a pudding and tea. Then the Canteen was open, and, until bed time, there were talks by the Officers, sing songs, games and a general get together. In the meantime the Officers and N.C.Os. were busy with their many administration tasks and they were lucky if they could totter off to bed by midnight. This little programme could be rudely shattered, of course, by the

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alarm bells. We got warning of the approach of the enemy usually before the civilian population, and, if the men were all dressed and about, it was easy. But the Hun sometimes came when tired men were a-bed and asleep. And then the scramble started; boots and blouses, overcoats tin hats (and it should have been respirators) to be found and stuck on somehow. Last but not least to find one's way to his projector or to the plotting room in the black dark. And can it be cold on the edge of the North East Coast at midnight? The plotters were under cover and reasonably warm and they had to be because they came into action first. Their's the calculations from which they had to give bearing, elevation, fuse and fire orders. A very important job for part time soldiers. Equally necessary was it for them to so space their orders to the guns that sufficient time was allowed for Gunners to carry out one order before receiving another. Can you visualise the scene again on the gun site just before action. Two men standing beside a weapon loaded with two dainty doses of death. Dark and cold and the drum of the enemy overhead. A bit knocky about the knees and seemingly——too many teeth. How are the wife and kiddies you wonder? Ah well, we've got a nice little headache here for Jerry when we get the word anyway. And then the word over the headphones "fire" and hell is let loose all around us. 64 modern weapons put up 128 rounds and the "dust rises." Then a pause, and if we are not receiving orders again or have re-loaded already, we look up to see our earthquake in the sky. Only ordinary men with homes but it is a bit of alright to make it hot for the Hun. And sometimes we see something red coming down out of the bursts. Poor old blighter but he started the shooting anyway. May be a few more salvoes are fired or worse still not at all. Do you remember the night when the Bosche was there

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and we wern't allowed to have a go? Perhaps our bad language chased him away eventually. So on we go until "Cease firing" and back to the huts or the drill hall and a chat if there has been anything exciting.

In the morning breakfast and off home. It was some satisfaction to say at work "I was on duty last night," particularly if there had been anything doing.

And we do not forget the men from up the Tyne who came by train when they finished work too late to catch the bus. Or the South Shields lads who finished a twelve hour shift of heavy work and still made it about 9 o'clock. Why did they do it? Well, don't expect poetry from them, but they weren't going to have the wife and kids knocked about by the blank and more blank Hun if they could help it.

CHAPTER 4.

Our friendly critics may enquire if we did any civilian work at all when they read this, but we shall reply in a superior way that the busy people always do most.

So we say modestly we tried our hands at other things than manning projectors.

In June 1943, a band of enthusiasts mooted the idea of a Battery Band. A nucleus of strong minded and winded men was found and then a thorough comb out of the neighbourhood was made for instruments. The successful marauders returned to Rockcliffe in triumph and in taxis. The first try out was on a Sunday morning and R.Q.M.S. Turnbull had to be separated from the Bandmaster in the first round by main force. The R.Q.M.S. is a man not averse to or inexperienced in bars

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but these unexpected bars from the ground floor apparently were not of his vintage, especially when he was having trouble over the balancing of his ledger. Undismayed, the Band strove manfully, but Sunday overtime, a good institution financially, but without soul musically, had something to do with the demise of the Band.

During 1943 a lot of men were about Rockcliffe and the idea of a Club arose and this was opened in September 1943, by Mrs. Patterson, the wife of the Commanding Officer. The Club had its ups and downs but it brought a lot of happiness to many people, not the least the ladies who met in afternoons and played whist to the eventual profit of the football team. Further, Mrs. Meek and her ladies did a grand job of work in the kitchen, when the Club was going strongly. Eventually we seemed to conquer the reasons for men coming about Rockcliffe in such large numbers and the need for the Club passed away. It was closed in 1944. Such a place would not be so homely without a glass of beer and many humorous situations arose before this urgent need was satisfied. It was only proper that higher authority should be consulted before the first barrel was tapped or the first cork drawn. They with one accord began to make excuses. A particularly high ranking Officer read a harassed C.O. a lecture on the advisability of the men walking from Rockcliffe to the drill hall for their gill. But the Drill Hall had its drawbacks and it was whispered, purely by the expert froth blowers, of course, that the beer there flucuated in attractiveness. So the difficulty was surmounted, as so many difficulties were surmounted in the Unit, by turning the blind eye to the law of the Medes and Persians and simply getting the beer. But there were some doubtful moments.

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The Gateshead worthies also had their club, in Half Moon Lane. Being particularly enthusiastic they also put in some very good training there. It can be remembered just how many good nights these lads had together and how very hospitable they were to the others of the Battery and the Regular Soldiers.

In August 1943, there was great fun and many games on the lawn of Rockcliffe where photographs of H.Q. Staff, Battery Officers and all Reliefs were taken. There is no doubt these will, in the future, revive happy memories of worth while days.

Mention has been made of the Battery Football Club which functions in the South Shields Civil Defence League. It started in 1943, and continued in 1944 and plays on the Battery Field opposite Rockcliffe. Many of the old hands take a fatherly interest in the team and it speaks volumes for the enthusiasm of the players that, as this is being written, after our Stand Down, they are still carrying on under the old name and thoroughly enjoying themsleves.

CHAPTER 5.

In certain quarters, and, indeed, in certain countries, there are gentlemen who are known as "Party Organisers." They have their detractors because of their partiality to taking things from others. In the Battery we had "Party" organisers too but they were highly regarded because of their ability to get things for others. The great and only worth while reason for a party is because people want one. And that is why we had more than a few. Of course, the Welfare fund picked up a few coppers as well.

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The Battery was on duty on Xmas Day and New Year's Eve in both 1942 and 1943. So as not to get morose we had parties aided and abetted by the A.T.S. girls and the Regulars. And we had numerous dances in South Shields, Gateshead, Hebburn and Jarrow. We got to know one another and many a nice sweetheart and wife.

Reliefs began to have Annual get togethers and they are to keep them going in the future.

Then the Officers took up the challenge and held a dinner. In fact they have had two annual dinners and when the second broke up (mind you, we, don't mention the hour) it was passed unanimously if incoherently that it would continue until time is no more.

A red letter day was April 27th, 1943, which was the first Anniversary of the Battery. It was a great affair. Very secret information was received of the presence in the locality of a number of distinguished variety stage artists who would not be averse to a party. So at that celebration we were entertained by a " bill " of Command Performance calibre. There trooped on to the drill hall stage Miss Sylvia Rawson, Tommy Fields, Albert Burdon, Connor & Drake, Georgie Wood & Dolly Harmer and Teddy Brown. And all done through kindness.

The second anniversary was also a joyous affair. Jos. Q. Atkinson brought down a party to entertain us, which included his famous Band and Johnny Gay, Jimmy Muir and Harry Shuttleworth.

In the Spring of 1944, as time was hanging heavily on our hands, we decided to have a Sports meeting. We sent for the arch organiser, Capt. Mearns. The friendly co-operation of the Harton Colliery Welfare

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Committee gave us their wonderful ground. It is seriously suggested that this effort surpassed any previous function the Unit had tried on the social side. The preliminary work was enormous, not forgetting the work afterwards. A very fine set of events was planned and a wonderful programme printed in the best peace time tradition. We had competitors from the Regular Forces and our neighbouring Home Guard Units. All the prospective Christmas presents for 1944 were acquired as prizes and there were children's events, donkey rides, ice cream, refreshment tents, bands, concert party and all. The day—July 29th—was not very kind but the huge agenda was carried out to the bitter end. (Perhaps "bitter" in our abstemious battery is an unfortunate word). The C.O. gave a cup for the Relief who gained most points. No. 1 Relief won from No. 8, with a small margin and only after Counsel's opinion had been taken as to the kind of boots permissible in the Tug of War. It was soon obvious No. 1 had taken the matter very seriously and been in secret training. Even men who should have known better had evidently forsworn any kind of liquid refreshment since the previous Thursday and when you think of Platers and Riveters this speaks volumes. But returning to seriousness the Sports were a great success and the profit made that day stood the Unit in good stead when we had our "Stand Easy" parties hereinafter mentioned. Grateful thanks were due to Capt. Mearns and his very great hearted body of workers (not forgetting Lieut. Marsden) for the first class success they achieved.

Athletically the Sports put our tails up and our gallants went on to 30th Brigade Sports to show their prowess and pick up the available prizes.

Lastly the swimmers. They kept the flag of the Battery (and of the Regt.) flying at the two galas held

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by 30th Brigade at Jesmond. Apart from the Flying Fish from Tees-side, who or which was clearly inhuman, our men were as good as any on view and deserving of congratulation.

CHAPTER 6.

And now a few words about the back room boys or the men of Battery Head Quarters at Rockcliffe. At the beginning we had one lady clerk who was paid; later we added a paid storeman, and finally another lady clerk. As has been said before the Battery had an Administration Officer, he was a Regular Army Captain and had important duties. Unlike the Infantry Battalions we had no Quartermaster Captain. As the paid staff were on duty during the day, (to their credit they often came in at nights too) we had to find Home Guard Clerks and storemen for night duty. On this side we were extremely fortunate in having as members of the Unit men holding responsible positions in civil life enthusiastic enough to do the routine work of Battery H.Q. They nearly all finished up as Officers. H.Q. fell into three departments; Battery Office, the Stores under R.Q.M.S. (later Lieut.) Turnbull and the R.S.M. (Mr. Simpson, D.C.M., M.M.). The R.S.M. was in charge of his N.C.O's. and their records, and was liaison between them and Battery Office: he got a number of other jobs thrust upon him from time to time. The Stores looked after the clothing and equipment of all the men and this was a very big job indeed; especially in the early days when first issues were being made. The office itself was always a hive of industry. Apart from the usual periodical returns to be made, external correspondence, finance, orders and so on to be dealt with there was a big internal organisation. Attendances to be checked, absentees to be chased up,

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recruits to be handled and posted to troops when passed out, and the necessary interviews. Men claiming relief on grounds of sickness had to be sent to the Medical Officer (Major G. F. Shepherd) for examination. When the Infantry Battalions became our feeders for recruits contact had to be kept with them and their men interviewed. The Admin. Capt. more often than not worked a 12 hour day. The C.O. from the beginning left the approach to himself open for Battery Captains on certain nights in the week and Sunday mornings. The Admin. Captain did the same. This worked well and difficulties could be smoothed out easily and without fuss. Conferences between the Officers were regularly held and these discussions were valuable. It is true that the men at H.Q. did not sleep on the site but there is no doubt they made up for this in the concentrated work they did and the hours they put in. The writer has every course to be grateful. Purely as a matter of history, it may be mentioned that the C.O. attended two nights a week and on a Sunday morning. On other days he called at Rockcliffe during the day and thus problems were dealt with immediately and arrears of work kept down.

As some of the Officers read this this they will feel they could add much to this chapter. But modesty my dear Watson, modesty.

CHAPTER 7.

The Battery had many moments of fun as every Unit has. For instance life was very strange in the early manning days, but confidence came with experience and we could afford to laugh at our early mistakes.

There was the night when the projectors were at "Stand by" (or ready to fire) and, before the order to fire was given, one solitary projector fired skywards

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like the crack of doom. A terrible silence ensued, but to give No. 2 Relief credit there was no panic and not another projector was fired until the proper order was given. Then a "beauty" of a salvo went up. This particular night two "kills" were awarded.

Rather a rough diamond was being interviewed once and attempts were being made to find out which Relief Battery he was in. Several tests were made and eventually he was asked the name of his Battery Captain. He said it was "one of them words the toffs use a lot." Putting on a bit of detective work we found he belonged to Capt. Topping.

Two chaps came into H.Q. to get their papers as they were off to the Army. To save a lot of search the first was asked if he was manning, i.e., trained and operational. He answered "Yes," but he could not be found amongst the trained personnel. He was then asked how long he had been with us, and, as his answer indicated such a short time that he could not possibly have been passed out, he was asked in forcible language how he had been passed out. He then said his name was "Manning." The second man was called in with exactly the same result and he turned out to be a brother of the first.

In the early days, when records were hasty, the Battery office chased two alleged defaulters called "Book" with enthusiasm. Eventually, with a magnifying glass it was found that the name was Cook and that Messrs. Cook were attending regularly.

Another headache of hasty early records was a name like John Thomas. As this could be reversed and still make sense, confusion often ensued.

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The Admin. Officer was concluding an interview but having an afterthought he shouted to the Officer about to leave him "Wait." A Gunner Waite was passing the office door at the time and promptly stood easy thinking the order referred to him. Some time passed before he was disillusioned.

One troop of old sweats from Gateshead made sure of a cosy fire in their hut as they fortified the issue with some coal of their own carried from Gateshead in their haversacks.

It is appropriate when talking of Gateshead to mention that a number of men in No. 6 Relief had many years of Regular Army service. At least 5 of them had 100% manning records with us.

And now we'll wind up this chapter with some verses by L/Bdr. Jeffrey of No. 2 Relief. The Sergt. W. Crow he refers to was one of our stalwarts and was rather severely burned one night, in action, when helping others. He recovered well, but being a Post Office worker, was sent to another part of the country. Hence the lament.

WE'VE LOST WOR SERGINT.

Wy Sargint man we miss ye sair,
Ye wor se strictly just and fair,
Nee mair we'll heor yor "BEER TROOP—SHUN"
Yor Last "STAND TO" wiv us ye've duen.

Respected by aal your trainees,
Wen raw, ye syen put them at ease,
It was'nt lang afore they knew,
That a square deal they'd git from you.

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Nee mair ye'll put us through fut drill,
Te halt or start us at yor will,
At drill ye thowt "BEER TROOP" was grand,
Ne slackness on parade ye'd stand.

By aal yor men ye wor esteemd,
Yor feyce more oft then not fair beamed,
True as a mirroe to reflect,
The kindly sowl we aal respect.

Nee mair intiv wor hut ye'll cum,
And to the gunners say "By gum
Aa think we'll hev a raid toneet,
Be sure to dee yor gun drill reet."

On ye the men cud aal depend,
If truoble came ye'd lend a hand,
This gud nyem ye hev rightly earned,
We'll not forgit hoo ye were burned.

We liked the way ye gaive and thowt,
At helping uthers ye'd dee owt,
A gud torn ye wor glad te dee,
Ye missed nee opportunity.

So Sargint Crow we wish ye well,
Far more than these poor words can tell,
And often in wor thowts ye'll be,
Remembered by the Battery.

THE TYNSIDE "ACK-ACK."

In April nineteen fowerty two,
Te Tynside men the caal came through,
For volunteers to man the guns,
Te myke things warm for raiding Huns.

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Aal credit te those willing men,
That put thor nyems doon there and then
This was the chance they'd waited for,
And up they rolled full eighty score.

From varied waaks of life they came,
The wish to sarve the common aim,
Sum in the last Greet Waar had fowt,
Uthors ov waar and strife knew nowt.

Doon to the gunpark they aal went.
Te larn thedrill they wor intent,
Wen they forst saw hoo it was dun,
They thowt they'd niver fire a gun.

They settled doon to larn gun drill,
The sargints put ehm through the mill,
They tuk this new job in their stride,
Efficiency thor aim and pride.

They worked tiv orders loud and clear,
From "TYEK POSTS" te "DETACHMENTS REAR,"
They larned the way te load a shell,
And hoo to set a fuse as well.

For many neets they did their best,
Te fit thorsells te pass the test,
Twas with relief nee doobt,
They fund at last they wor passed oot.

The lanyard they proudly wear,
And be the weather foul or fair,
They keep their watch one neet in ite,
Wiv raiding Huns prepared te fight.

Wen evening cums on their neet on,
From work they rush and Khaki don,
Thor nyems te answer at roal caal,
Then off they gan te the drill haal.

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The used to gan by bus de luxe,
But noo thor usin army trucks,
They need a pair of gud sea legs,
Te ride in them flying bedsteads.

Sum vary hectic neets they've spent,
They've seen the sky with H.E. rent,
At Jerry droning over head,
Oft times their shells hev truly sped.

But though death lurks up in the sky,
A latent sense of humour lies,
Among the gunners doon below,
As these two yarns will sarve to show.

One neet an officer aghast,
Stared at a great coat caught by blast,
Illuminated in the gun flash light,
He watched it sail high up aheight.

He offered an impromptu prayer,
And hoped its owner was elswhere,
He rushed to where the great coat fell,
His language then was charged wiv hell.

Another neet wen on "Stand To"
A gunner actin No. 2,
Rushing for his ammunition,
Barred the hoy on an abstruction.

As oot-stretched hand gripped summick warm,
He switched his torch on in alarm,
To his sorprise and Infra Dig,
He fund he captured a pork pig.

The regulars are kindly crowd,
To sarve wiv them the Home Guard's proud,
And to the cookhouse ATS its true,
They owe a Debt and Say "Thank You."

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CHAPTER 8.

When September 1944 came in, we began to think of winter activities and perhaps some sport with the Hun. Works holidays were over and Reliefs began to think of manning percentages again, although it should be said that the manning had been very good all through this "D" Day summer. Many men on holiday turned up as usual, just in case. Then on the first Wednesday of September the Secretary for State for War told us we were to go back to a voluntary basis as from the following Monday and we gathered that the War situation justified our "Standing easy" as from September 11th, 1944. Our Commander in Chief asked us to stand by for another fortnight as he considered Tyneside was still a vulnerable area. We set to and laid on an organisation for the future which covered the eventuality of our recall. As we always had the get together spirit strong in our blood we finished the last 8 days ending on 22nd September, with 8 very good parties. There were concert parties, refreshments, and not a few gate crashers, but we went out with a bang even at the expense of the Entertainment Fund. And the parties did not end there. After all, we had to give some excuse to the wife and it was very often necessary to have these gatherings in places where good ale was to be had at reasonable prices. But all good things, and good excuses, come to an end and officially it was laid down that the H.G. would stand down on December 3rd, 1944. The occasion was to be marked by a big parade in London, at which His Majesty, The King, would take the salute and by Local Parades in our own towns. We were asked to send two N.C.O's. to the London parade and the lucky ones were Sergt. Clark of No. 3 Relief and Bdr. G. D. Haggie of No. 7 Relief. They went with our good wishes, tinged with envy. That

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parade has been written up by better scribes than the author of this little book. Our own parade was in the afternoon and we started off from near Rockcliffe headed by the bagpipes and drums of the N.F.S. The weather kept fine for us and a very representative and smart body of men marched to the Town Hall where the salute was taken by our Regtl. Commander, Col. E. G. Angus, C.B.E., M.C., T.D. Then on by Chichester Road and Dean Road to the Regent Cinema where several distinguished gentlemen spoke to us and thanked us. It will be agreed that the speeches of the Mayor of South Shields (Ald. J. W. Mitchell) and the Chairman of the Durham Territorial Army and Air Force Association (Col. Robert Chapman, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.) were particularly appreciated. Our Regtl. Commander read the King's Order of the Day. We sang "Land of Hope and Glory" and "The King" and the Unit stood down only to be re-called if the War situation should so turn for the worse as to justify it. We came out of the Cinema into the December sunshine. It was a historic and poignant moment. Can we ask ourselves this question: was it the million and three quarters of H.G. in this country who gave Hitler pause in his plans for the invasion of this country? A subsequent history to this must be left to answer; we Home Guardsmen will only say we were proud to wear the uniform of the Crown and we did our best.

CHAPTER 9.

And now we reach the end. What has gone before is largely a composite effort. Written up from the author's own records and from data supplied to him by members of the Unit. These concluding remarks are the Author's own although some of his opinions may be shared by others. It is written in a spirit of con-

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structive criticism. Everyone hopes the Home Guard Anti Aircraft personnel will not be called into action again, but what follows is said—well, just in case. It will be seen the Unit was a happy one and that its relations with the Regular component were harmonious. Are there, then, any criticisms or suggestions to be made. Let us deal, first of all, with the establishment and organisation of a mixed AntiAircraft Rocket Battery consisting of Regular Gunners, A.T.S. girls and Home Guardsmen. The Regular component (when the H.G. provided the manning establishment) consisted of a Major, three, or sometimes four, other officers, and a comparatively small number of W.O's. N.C.O's. and men; say about 50 all told, after allowing for leave, courses, sickness and other causes. Leaving the officers for a moment, the N.C.O's. assisted and supervised the H.G. N.C.O's. with training and assisted their own officers with supervision when the Battery was in action. They did a very good job. The Regular Officers were paramount on the site; the Battery, in action, was commanded by the Regular Major, and, in his absence, this command was delegated to each Regular Officer in turn down to the junior Subaltern. This meant no H.G. Officer having ultimate authority over his own men in action. The Regular Battery Officers, who served with the Unit, were all good men, able and efficient. (Major J. M. Henry had a very good understanding of the problem). It is agreed their training was more intensive than that of their H.G. counterpart. The H.G. supplied the Plotting Officer and the plotting team and these men brought down Hun planes as did Regular soldiers. There was secrecy, about certain items of equipment from the H.G. which seemed too careful to men who made these items during the day. The manning and firing of the projectors and the plotting of targets were not tasks which the H.G. Officer and N.C.O. were incapable of performing. Under

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the peculiar system pertaining there seemed two Captains on the bridge, instead of a Captain and a Pilot. Such a system retarded initiative and could only work at all by people blessed with endless give and take, coupled with good humour. Nevertheless the H.G. Officer was keenly aware of his limited powers and his men had, perforce, to divide their loyalty. There was another curious result of this system. Because of the position of the Regular Major, the H.G. Battery Commander held the rank of Major, although he commanded a Unit of equal size to a H.G. General Service Battalion, which was commanded by a Lieut. Colonel. Most G.S. Companies were commanded by Majors; the other ranks in the Battalion following the usual steps after this. In the H.G. A.A. Batteries the manning Relief Commanders had the rank of Captain which seemed a little hard. There seemed no reason at all why the H.G. A.A. Units should not have been masters in their own house with a Regular component attached to them for training and maintenance. Such a position would have had a very fortifying effect on prestige and efficiency and would have allowed the same officer, W.O. & N.C.O. establishment to Batteries as to G.S. Battalions. Arising out of this is the question whether higher ranking Regular soldiers understood the Home Guard as they would have liked? Did many Regular soldiers above the rank of Major have the time to get under the skin of the problem? Many of them seemed to have far too much to do. Let it not be forgotten that the Home Guard Anti Aircraft gunners far outnumbered the Regulars in the Tyne Area and every man in uniform likes to see a bit of braid now and then. Another rather constant difficulty was the laying on of certain things higher up without prior consultation with the H.G. lower down. As an example: a suggestion was put forward that the Officers establishment might be increased by 4 to help

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solve the training problem. A Staff Colonel said this was impossible because many Units were unable to complete the existing Officer establishment. This seemed a reasonable answer but the Colonel barely had time to return to H.Q. before word was received that the Officer Establishment had been increased by 8 ! One answer is that the H.G. side of Anti Aircraft Command should have been a Corps in itself, properly organised and staffed from the top by men who understood or had time enough to try and understand the Home Guard point of view.

As to the "Stand Easy." If our superiors were taken by surprise the black ignorance of the Home Guard Officers can be readily understood. Not an inkling that the announcement was to be made was known on our side and no prior consultation had ever been mooted. The result was that a splendid and efficient organisation went down. Our Unit was manning at full pitch at the time. The Home Guards were proud of their uniform, Units and responsibility; they fully expected and were perfectly willing to continue until the cease fire. The Secretary of State's announcement left us bewildered and, at first, hurt. We expected that our Unit might even live on in times of peace. It seemed likely some kind of military service would continue on a compulsory basis after the War and our organisation was an excellent foundation for some part of this service. That was our selfish view point. To our Comrades of the fighting Services we were grateful that they had made the War take such a turn as to make our stand down possible.

As I read over the draft of this little book word has just been received that I am to receive one of the decorations the King has been pleased to award to certain

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members of the Home Gaurd. My own feelings can be understood but I am delighted that "101 Durham" has received this recognition. Our Regtl. Commander Col. Angus, has been awarded the C.B.E. and this delights us all. He was our champion and a great inspiration.

WHITBURN,

COUNTY DURHAM.

APRIL, 1945.

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Extract from—

"BATTERED ARMOUR"

Relating the events of the

577 Sussex Army Troops Coy. R.E.

during those critical days of that last retreat of the British Army during the Great War. - MARCH 21st, 1918

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Xtra card Dornbusch.

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The 577 Sussex Army Troops Company, R.E.

(1914 - 1918)

by

H. J. PAINE

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Introduction

I dedicate these few remarks to my old comrades, with whom I lived, worked, quarrelled, but loved, during that time when we tried to do our bit.

They were, and are, my friends. But " there is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother ".

" Any post, my dear ? "

" Yes, an invitation from the 577 Sussex A.T. Company, your old comrades dinner."

I muse. Quietly the scene changes. I see a man in khaki running along a railway line with a dixie in his hand, hair dishevelled, his uniform dirty.

He stops near an engine, I know what he is doing, he is getting hot water for his few leaves of tea; the water won't be boiled, only hot sufficient to spoil it. Anyway, it's a drink.

Slowly the train begins to move, a shout.

" Lyner ! Lyner ! Look out ! You'll be left behind."

He hesitates, then he realizes it's now or never; he dives for the train: he scrambles aboard. He's lost all his kit, for it's in the other train.

* * * * *

I still muse.

" Oh, it's my delight on a shiny night, in the season of the year.—Join in the chorus, lads."

The notes too high, now too low.

" The cymbals rang, the cornets played . . . "

" 'Twas a lucky, lucky day when he came that way."

" For this is the end of a perfect day."

" Should old acquaintance be forgot."

Has anybody a piece of cheese ?

* * * * *

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Make new friends, but keep the old; the first are silver, the second gold.

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not.—*Proverbs* 27 : 10.

As a bird that wandereth from his nest; so is a man that wandereth from his place.—*Proverbs* 27 : 17.

My place is at the dinner. I formally reply, accepting.

* * * * *

What is that mystery which makes dear the heart of man to man. However far apart we're flung in life's wild ways, the ties that bind are never broken.

I visualize the changing scenes from Belle Vue Farm, where I linked up and where the S.M. told us what he thought of us.

To Meaulte and Bray, Becordel and Albert, to Montauban; on to Beaumetz, Velu and Boursies, Bertincourt and our trips to Demmicourt, the Cambrai Road, Havringcourt, Bapaume, Le Transloy, Courcelte, Meaulte again, and back to Humbercourt, Souastre and St. Amand, and on and on to Berlaimont down to Naours.

The Christmas dinner, the pig, carols at the officers' mess.

" Oh, Apre nobis."

* * * * *

And so we meet for: " As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man ".—*Proverbs* 27 : 19.

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Extract from " BATTERED ARMOUR "

That Sunday the journey down the Seine eclipsed the night. It was lovely. We lay on the clean decks in the warm sun, passing town after town along the river banks, and admiring the lovely scenery. Arriving at Rouen at 5 p.m., we disembarked without incident and marched to the camp and had a meal.

All soldierly smartness here was missing; it seemed to me that all the troops tried to look as grubby as possible.

I found they mostly preferred the line and their regiments to being at the base.

A matter of two weeks here and then six of us left for the first Company, which we found at Albert.

Leaving Albert shortly afterwards, the Company moved to Meaulte. After a time I was sent on detachment to the R.G.A., the heavy artillery in the field and in the line beyond Bapaume. This was my first real baptism of shell fire as artillery duels were going on every day—not a very pleasant experience.

After a few weeks I returned to the Company at Meaulte. The summer of 1917 had now arrived and we spent it under fairly good circumstances, running the saw mills there. Alas, this soon came to an end; the summer days flew by, and just as we began to think we were there for good and out of the war, we were sent up the line—and in November, too. We had been in Nisson huts all this time, and had rigged up a recreation room of a sort. Card playing for the few francs we had went on here, and we dubbed it " The Casino ". Jock Gimmell taught me to dance to tunes played on a gramophone someone had sent out. Here also we arranged concerts, and one Tickle

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Kennet, always popular, used to render " Macnamara's Band " and " The Wibbly Wobbly Walk "; Nobbie, " The Farmer's Boy "; and your humble, " The Poacher ".

All this we sadly missed; and we left Meaulte with reminiscences and regrets—also the coffee from the village and the friendship of the French people, whom we got to know quite well—one especially where we got the coffee, Matilda by name. We found ourselves on the Cambria front: I knew the locality, as this was where I was earlier in the year with the Artillery.

We made our camp in Bertincourt village, a mile behind Hermes, which again was situated just behind the front lines. Bertincourt village itself was destroyed and our camp was made in the ruins, in huts. Here we slept during the day, and went up the line at night, chiefly repairing roads with muffled tools, and returning early morning. The job seemed fruitless to me; especially when the shelling and machine gunfire started. Fortunately we had a ditch near by, where we laid equipment and rifles. Sensing when the firing was about to commence, we would dive for the ditch. Fortunately only two of our chaps were wounded.

The winter months dragged by, during which no civilians were seen, as they were not allowed near the front. The spring came at last, and with it came rumours that the Germans were preparing a great offensive on this front, to make a last desperate fling. One morning we had new orders, dividing us up into parties of four men each. The storeman loaded us with gas-blanket materials, hammers and nails—our instructions being to fit the stuff over all dug-out entrances belonging to the Artillery in our section. Each party had a list of gun batteries to do; and these had to be located.

Iron rations were served, and we were ordered not to return until we had completed the job. This suited us very well; anything to be on our own for a bit. We soon found that the gunners were interested, when we explained the blanket was to keep out gas; and we found it paid to look after the gunner cook and fix his entrance up well, as it meant a dixie of stew and a mug of tea! It seemed a coincidence that we were always working near the cook at meal times!

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One officer was very interested to learn we were Sussex R.E.s by the " T.R.E. Sussex " on our epaulettes. As he came from Sussex; he sort of palled up and asked many questions about our home localities. He made a great impression upon me: a sort of " hail-fellow-well-met ". The gunners said he was very popular.

Completing the job, we reluctantly returned to camp. March 21st drew near. Although we expected the attack, we were surprised when it really happened. All were in the land of dreams that morning, when we were suddenly awakened by a terrific bombardment. Shells were falling all round, it seemed, and their whine was continuous. We hastily commenced to dress; it was hardly light.

" Dress and take shelter where possible," came the order. We did so. Being now fully awake, we gradually realized what was happening. Jerry was concentrating his fire on the batteries and cross-roads. The nearest to us was about 300 yards away. This was constantly receiving hits; but after a time this stopped, enabling us to pull ourselves together and get something like breakfast. The cooks panicked; and, instead of making the tea, poured the boiling water away, making ready to load up in case of a quick getaway. This diverted our attention from the shelling for a bit, making us livid at the thought of no morning tea.

We found that the hut used as a post office had been destroyed, so no post either. Also a direct hit on two of the ration dumps, meaning short rations. Shrapnel was now only occasionally falling over the village, so we prepared to get our stuff together for a move when ordered. Sentries were posted over the various piles of the Company's stores while awaiting instructions, and so the morning passed. News now came through from the front. The line was holding, it seemed, although some ground had been lost.

The morning had been misty, and it was only when one of our 'planes swooped down and, for a moment, cleared the mist, that our fellows saw the Germans coming over. This was most fortunate and saved many being caught unawares. I heard about this shortly after the war from an officer who was captured at Bullicourt, just in front of us that very morning.

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" Carry on with your proper work," came the order. My previous job was with a Corporal and three others, enlarging a deep dug-out at the top of the village. The others had already gone up and I was late, having been appointed guard over some equipment. Taking tin hat and gas mask, I walked up the street.

The place seemed deserted, excepting for one or two soldiers. One was coming towards me. As he drew near I felt that I had seen him before; his face was haggard and drawn and his eyes were sunken. Fear and terror was written all over him. Poor fellow! My heart was filled with pity. Suddenly, I remembered him. He was a gunner, one of those with the officer we had met the week before at Beaumetz. At the same time as I realized this, he recognized me! He couldn't speak.

" Hello," I said, and waited. At last he found his tongue. Slowly it came.

" Our guns have gone."

" Captured? " I asked.

" Yes," he said, " this morning. He's in the village [meaning Jerry). We had the order ' every man for himself '. We were firing our eight-inch point blank on the shortest fuses we could, when Jerry came through the mist and was on us. When I heard the order to clear, I just ran. Looking back I could see Jerry, bayoneting our men as they came from the dug-outs."

" Did the officer get away? " I asked him anxiously.

" I don't know," he answered vaguely.

" What are you going to do? " I questioned.

" I don't know," he replied.

Just then I saw two staff officers come out of a farmyard nearby. " I would tell them, if I were you," I suggested, " and ask their advice." He did so, and I left him talking to them.

Suddenly a terrific bombardment opened out. I couldn't locate it for a moment, but seeing a solitary Scotch Jock in his kilt standing on a rubbish heap I went over and stood by him and followed his gaze. He was a fine type of man. I sensed then that there was something wrong with him.

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Without looking at me, he muttered: "It's hell," "just hell! The front's gone: my battalion just vanished away!"

He had apparently just come out of the line on his own accord. My eyes followed his: then I knew what was happening. The Germans were in Beaumetz, a mile in front, and their guns were now in advanced positions and putting down a heavy barrage. Earth and smoke was flying in the air down in the valley. Not having seen anything like it before, I stood and watched, and wondered why nothing was falling where we were. Only one solitary gun of ours was answering behind us, to our left. If the Germans were coming through, what hopes had we in a dug-out further up the village? And the thoughts of being bayoneted were certainly not pleasant!

Slowly, I found my way there. I never hurried, but took as long as I could. I got to the top of the dug-out and went slowly down thirty-five steps, out of the sunlight into the gloom, and then dim candle light. There was George Burgess, a Corporal, with Ben Elliot and Bowley. I made up the squad. The Corporal was picking the earth face, swearing, with every other word of his conversation cursing the war, the Germans, our officers for making us be there, and us as well. Anyway, he was brave.

"We shall know when to clear," he consoled us. "I have seen the S.M. in the other dug-out, in charge of Signals, and he is in touch with the front line, so get stuck in," he ordered, "and he'll shout down if Jerry breaks through."

"What if he's too late?" I thought.

Quietly we worked, with one ear cocked for a shout. Anyway, we were safe down there from gunfire. For two hours we pegged away, filling sandbags, until there were no more to fill. We knew the next order.

"Get them to the top and empty them!"

We shrank from this, but it had to be done.

It wasn't too bad. The firing had stopped or died down now.

There was suddenly a shout. "Sussex R.E.s! Report back to camp immediately!"

We were there pretty quickly, in less time than it takes to

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tell. The whole village was now uncannily quiet. There was no one at camp: all had gone. I went to my billet. There lay my equipment and rifle. I hastily picked it up and put it on: a feeling of relief came over me. Thank God I'd got a rifle and fifty rounds of ammunition ! I felt better. I could fight, anyway !

Then the Corporal appeared, with one of our fellows from the dug-out. The situation cleared itself. Apparently the general idea and information was that Jerry was being held, but the rear lines were moving back. Our Company had left for Le Transloy seven miles away to the rear. Four of our men were left at the camp, with orders to stay until all were in; some were still out, including my pal, Gink Stevens. Gink was up at Havingcourt on the ramp in the Canal-du-Nord. Poor old Gink. I was anxious for him: he was in a hotter spot than we were.

I left the camp and started for Le Transloy. The others had left already, and were in front. I looked back over the fields towards the valley; it seemed so near. German 'planes were flying to and fro. None of ours were to be seen. I turned the corner out of the village and into a stream of traffic—men, gun carriages, lorries, cavalry and odd detachments. There was the destroyed post office hut; letters all over the place, and the ground pitted by the morning's barrage. The sun was sinking. Suddenly I realized I had taken the wrong road and turned back against the stream of traffic. Just then some cavalry passed and I recognized a face. It was the young gunner officer ! " Thank God," I thought, " he's out, anyway ! " and steadily moved along.

It was nearly dark when we got to Le Transloy and found our mob. Commandeering some empty huts, we got down as best we could and made ourselves as comfortable as possible. Soldiers fall asleep mechanically, and we did that night. Awakening with a start early next morning, we were all ravenously hungry and all thoughts were of food. It was a fine day and fairly quiet. The cooks were up and we had breakfast and a mug of tea. Thank goodness ! What next ? No orders yet except " Stand by ". Then it came. The line was still holding. " Carry on with all jobs—including Signal dug-out at Bertincourt " !

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" What ? " I thought, " go up there again ? "

I soon found my squad. Then Corporal Banks appeared.

" We go up by lorry at 4 p.m. this afternoon," he said, " and work until midnight, when the lorry will fetch us back."

" Yes, perhaps ? " I thought.

However, it had to be, so we lazed in the sun while the others worked. We had dinner of a sort and 4 p.m. drew near.

" Tin hat, gas mask, light marching order, rifle, pick and shovel," came the order.

" Yes," I thought again, " call it battle order and done with ! "

" Come on," ordered the Corporal, " the sooner we get there, the sooner we get back."

This was his poor attempt at consolation. So we piled in the back of the lorry and moved off. Again there was no one on the roads. Not a soul to be seen, no traffic. It made us feel queer. Bowley, one of our chaps, looked at me. I looked at him. We stood up in the back of the lorry and looked out.

Drawing near Bertincourt we had a shock. The familiar road had altered. Shell holes were everywhere and then lumps covered with men's ground sheets, which told their own tale, odd equipment and rifles; then a leg with a piece of trouser and puttie and boot still on. Bowley went white, and drew hard at his pipe. I lit a cigarette. Neither of us spoke, but thought hard. The lorry stopped; we were there and got out. Not a sound. We unloaded our tools and the lorry left. Even the engine seemed to sense something was wrong and purred softly.

" I'll be up on the stroke of twelve," promised old John, the driver. He was a Mons man, and we knew, if he could, he would keep his word. We looked around. Just in front was a field hospital. Stretcher bearers were bringing in the wounded. Just through the hedge, lying prone, were two machine gunners, with their gun set up and trained across the field facing Beaumetz. It didn't seem healthy !

Down the dug-out we went. Halfway down there came the old familiar whine of shrapnel and then its burst and clap.

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We made a start of filling sandbags and they began to pile up. All was quiet again on top. The monotony of filling sandbags and the closeness of the atmosphere became oppressive; everyone was choking. Suddenly I had an intense desire to know what was going on, so I approached my mate.

" How about a blow on top and emptying ? " I suggested.

" Yes," he agreed, " anything for a change."

So up we went. Jerry was again shelling Beaumetz valley, but not so hard. We lingered with the bags. The machine gunners were still there on the other side of the thin hedge from which stretched the green field and beyond; on the other side, a matter of a few hundred yards, stood the tall trees of Velu Wood. Two twelve inch howitzers were hidden here and used for shelling Cambria Station; but they were silent, probably now withdrawn. We heard later the rails were blown the first day of the attack, before they were got out, and had to be relaid.

What's this coming across the field ? A battery of eighteen pounders. They swing round and then wait for action.

The stretcher bearers were still coming in. The sun was sinking. One small star appeared. A whine of shrapnel, and we went below. My thoughts veered to England and home.

" Do they know what's going on out here ? Do they know what war really is ? That men are dying, just killing one another ? How did it all come about ? "

" Have a go at picking, P——," ordered the Corporal. I mechanically picked up the pick and started hacking the recess face, while others filled the loose soil into bags. Just then the Signals Sergeant Major came down with two signallers.

" Thank God for a rest at last," he said. " We've been at it all day." He brought news of the front, first-hand news. " Jerry's in Caterpillar trench just in front of Hermies still; one of our fellows has just 'phoned through. Where he is our boys are surrounded," he went on. " He'll come through, though; his long legs always bring him back ! "

He climbed on the top of the sandbags and tried to sleep.

More signallers came down, and soon the air, foul as it

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was was filled with snoring. All was quiet outside for a time; then we heard voices, and a burst of shrapnel and a cry. The S.M. was up in a flash.

" Someone's hit ! "

He flew up the steps. After a time he returned.

" Another casualty for the dressing station," was all he said.

He was talkative, full of hope of the line holding.

" We shall pull through if we can get some reinforcements," was his firm opinion.

Then another voice was heard calling down.

" Is there any room down there for me ? "

It was pretty crowded now.

" Let him come down," said the S.M.

" Yes, come down ! " we called up.

Slowly a form came down, a lad of about 18, a brigade runner. He could hardly drag one foot in front of the other and was dragging a blanket behind him. His knees crumpled under him and he just sank prostrate and slowly pulled the blanket over him.

" Tired, laddie ? " asked the S.M.

" I've been up and down to the line since dawn," the boy answered faintly. " I can't go again. Please don't answer if they call me ! "

He tried to sleep. If hearts could bleed, mine did for him ! Poor kid, he'd hardly shut his eyes when someone at the top called down: " Brigade runner, where are you ? "

" Oh, don't answer," he implored, " please don't answer ! "

We all felt sorry for him.

" Laddie, I'm sorry; you'll have to go," quietly said the S.M.

He dragged himself to his feet.

" It's the last time. I shan't come back," he sobbed in despair. He went.

" Poor chap," the S.M. said, " it must be hell up there ! "

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The atmosphere was now oppressive. I came over drowsy. The night was drawing on: 11 p.m.; 11.30; a few minutes to twelve midnight. Would old John and his lorry come? It was barely twelve. Could it be true that we heard a purr of an engine?

"Sussex R.E.s!" It was old John's voice! Sweet music! "Pack up, come on!"

We jumped to it. Picks, shovels, equipment, rifles, tin hats, gas masks we piled in the lorry. Old John had kept his word. We lit our cigarettes and settled down for the ride back to Le Transloy. It wasn't all honey. Half a mile down the road we got stuck in a ditch. We dug the wheel out. Traffic was thick; all were moving back under cover of darkness.

I thought of the S.S.M. and his hope of reinforcements. Slowly we got back to camp and, too tired for further thought or care, sank to sleep under our greatcoats and blankets.

"Fall in!"

We awoke with a start. What was that? The door opened noisily.

"Fall in!"

There was no mistaking this time. The Orderly Sergeant was there!

"Come on, get a move on: fall in. Breakfast at once—not the dug-out gang!"

Thank God for that! It was broad daylight. I sank back to sleep, regardless of gunfire and commotion inside the hut and out. Sleep beats the pangs of hunger.

After a time I awoke again, hearing someone calling.

"Come on, get up, or you won't get any breakfast!"

Opening my eyes, there stood Bowley, half dressed, with a dixie of tea and two slices and a rasher of wind. I hastily half dressed and, picking up my dixie, made for the door. It was another lovely day and the cooks were cooking out in the open. I was just in time for a dixie of tea and my slices.

"Where are they all?" I asked the cook.

"All up digging the Green line," was the reply.

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We knew the Green line was the last line of defence on this front, and should have been dug and prepared, we heard later, months before.

It was situated about two miles in front of where we were. Bowley and I had breakfast together, sitting in the sun against the hut, and then we had a smoke. Big shells were dropping about half a mile in front of us, about every ten minutes. We subconsciously waited for the whine, and whoever was first to hear remarked: " Here comes another ! "

Corporal Banks appeared.

" What's the orders, Corp ? " we inquired.

" Well," says he, " it looks as if old Jerry's coming through; and if so, it's another move back—and no dug-out ! "

" Thank God for that," we both exclaimed.

The men started coming in—Jimper Penfold and Nobby Clark, then Tickle and Jack Brain, Jenner, Dave Simmons and the others in bunches, sweating and carrying their picks and shovels.

Jerry was coming through.

" I've never seen so many Jerries in my life," exclaimed one of our chaps.

It appeared that hundreds of our men had been sent up to dig and clear back as soon as they had done their section of the trench. Before they had finished the infantry of the 51st Division, or what was left of them, were lying on the grass, waiting to get in, and bullets were coming across. In ones and twos our men came in. Biscuits and bully beef were handed out, and we fell in. The roll was called: several were absent. Ginks' name was called. No answer. Where was Ginks ? Jerry must have Havringcourt by now ! Then I spotted him. He was just coming in, slowly; he was dragging himself along, and with the others, fell in at the end of the column. He was safe ! Later I saw him and he told me his story.

Here Capt. Wood left us, after a brief word of good-bye, to join a Field Company.

We marched away. Why were we not ordered to the front line ? We marched the rest of the day. Evening drew on and stars appeared. Would we never stop ? At last we did; our wagons appeared, we bivouacked and slept. Not a sound dis-

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turbed the night. Another day arrived. We got up, we packed, and marched through the old Somme battlefields. At midday we arrived at Montauban; we'd been marching parallel to the line! Here the retiring troops were thick and the roads blocked. Field guns were firing in the valley. We formed into single file. Then halted. Then Lieutenant Turner appeared, talking to a Brigadier.

We went forward. There, at right-angles to the road, was an old trench, partly filled with old barbed wire and tins. The Brigadier was trying to form a defence for a rearguard action; about twenty-five infantry were clearing out the rubbish.

"This is where we catch it," I thought.

We started to enter the trench.

"No," said the Brigadier, "I don't want you—I want your ammunition. We're very short."

We saved five rounds for ourselves, and let them have the rest.

"You get back; we shall want you later!"

Thank God for that! We marched and kept marching. Four of our 'planes flew over from the rear, turned and machine-gunned us and disappeared. Jerry in our 'planes! We still marched. Biscuits were passed back as we marched, with an open tin of jam.

We drew near to Becordel. We recognized the district—we were through the old Somme battlefield. Meaulte lay ahead and our old huts. A home-from-home! Heavy guns were now firing over our heads. Our guns. As we approached, they appeared—just two six-inch howitzers. We halted for a short rest. A gunner stood near and grinned, and I asked him the news.

"We retreated all night with these two," he said. "We lost the others. We left these gun pits eighteen months ago, and now we're back in them! We're shelling Jerries coming down the Bray road. What a war!"

We found the old huts empty, and by the stuff left behind, the troops had left hurriedly. Here Nobby had some luck. Scrounging, for which he was a pastmaster, he found some

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meat, and a couple of kidneys. We dumped our kits and rested.

" We're staying here until further orders," the word was passed round.

Having nothing to do but wait, our first thought was for the villagers whom we knew well. We found poor Matilda in tears, standing with her clothes, ready to go; also her aged parents. Her husband was away in the French Army. She welcomed us and gave us coffee.

" If Alleman stop at Becordel, we stay," she said. " The Burgomaster tell us when to go."

They were putting on a brave face. Alas ! three days later one of our dispatch riders saw them in a crowd of refugees in a town ten miles back. The village was in the front line within a few days, and was that summer gradually destroyed.

We slept the night in our old huts: next day things were quiet but for the continual firing of the two guns just up the valley at Becordel. Towards evening they stopped and drew out. They were reassuring and comforting, while they were there. Now we were alone. No sound of war disturbed the air as we settled down to sleep. If we had only known what we heard later, that there was no front line between us and the enemy, it had no doubt completely disappeared. Only the impossible old Somme battlefield ground kept him from advancing rapidly. He had to keep to the narrow roads.

Was I dreaming, or what ? Something was hurting my back. It was the next man poking me.

" P—— ! Wake up and pass the word. We're to fall in at once; hurry."

All were soon awake and fumbling for clothes and eqipment. With quiet mumblings and swearing we dressed and fell in.

" Right turn, quick march."

For two miles we march with hardly a word. Nobby, for one, was crestfallen, having lost his kidney's partly cooked. We apparently had a narrow escape. Five miles more and we pegged down for the rest of the night.

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Dawn found us again on the march. Two solitary Tommies were preparing to blow up a small bridge. They let us pass.

We marched all the morning, when we had a rest. Where were any reinforcements ? What were our side doing ? Was anything being done ? Ours not to reason why ! ! Why didn't we turn round and fight ? But what could 120 men do against divisions ? Not a soul could be seen, up hill or down valley. The country seemed deserted, all evacuated. At last we saw four soldiers coming in the distance, towards us—our Tommies with slung rifles and fixed bayonets.

They stopped our leading officer and spoke to him.

" Look out for German cavalry," was their message.

We were tiring—how much further ? All day we marched. The day drew on; late afternoon we rested, exhausted. We lay on the bank, little caring now what happened. Truly ours was a mob—we couldn't be called soldiers ! Someone drew attention to a movement ahead, about two miles in front. Right across the fields, some objects were slowly moving. Could it be cattle ? No, they were fairly equal distances apart.

" It's troops ! " someone said.

They drew nearer. Was it true ? Yes, it was ! Brand new soldiers, just as if they were out of a bandbox. They kept coming, rifles at the ready. They were in extended order. It seemed queer, what they were doing. Then they saw us, huddled along the side of the road. They hesitated a moment, and then came on. Then we knew ! They were the new front line coming up. Reinforcements at last !

" Where's Jerry ? " they shouted. " By gum, you're lucky, we were just going to have a go at you ! It's all right now we're here," they joked.

They were Australians, and some of the finest troops I'd ever seen, but they were only one thin line . . .

Oh, the tragedy of war ! How long would that thin line last ? We rose to our feet.

" Quick march ! "

It was now no march, not even a walk; we staggered and

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rolled! The night drew on and now more new troops were coming by in columns of fours, marching briskly.

We kept going. It's strange how one can keep going in ones and twos. Dimly we could hear the Sergeant shout: "Keep together!" every few minutes. Hunger now made itself felt. Would we never stop? Why march now, when troops were coming up? Hour after hour, it seemed, until at last we stumbled off the road. Feeling the soft grass under our feet, we sank down.

"No sleeping," came the order. "Bivvy properly!"

We begged to be left to sleep, but no! Our transport was there. How we did it I do not know, but we did, and sank to sleep. Sleep, sleep, beautiful sleep! All next day we rested. We were out. The line was reformed—it held. We moved to another front . . .

The memory fades and so:—

The years roll on.

The curtain begins to fall (eyes dim).

The keepers tremble (the arms).

The strong men bow themselves (the legs).

The grinding is low, the desire fails (the teeth).

But wait! Wait! I hear a soft voice still pleading.

"What man is there, if his son ask for bread, will he give him a stone?"

"Shall these dry bones live?"

Yes, to be sure.

There's a sunny bank this side of the stream. Come over.

"There is life for a look at the Crucified one, there is life at this moment for thee."

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God."—*John* 1 : 12.

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GALLIPOLI DAY

25th April 1951

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"LANCASHIRE LANDING"

This sheet contains a brief account of an episode in a great military undertaking. An episode covering some 24 hours only, yet in those 24 hours a friendship was made which, with little enough demonstration, has survived 36 years, and is the reason why H.M.S. Euryalus and the 1st Bn XX The Lancashire Fusiliers are to celebrate together this anniversary of the Landing on the Gallipoli Peninsular.

It is not intended to go into the strategy or even the story of the Gallipoli campaign suffice it to say that in April 1915 to assist our ally RUSSIA, a great armada of ships, bearing a mass of men and materials, was assembled in the Aegean Sea. In this complex of ships and men, in all probability unaware of each others existence, were H.M.S. Euryalus and 1st Bn XX The Lancashire Fusiliers.

In the evening of 24th April the Lancashire Fusiliers, embarked in H.M.S. Euryalus, commanded by Captain R. Burmester. The ships officers were much impressed by the discipline and bearing of the men. The Fusiliers were eagerly welcomed on board by the ratings while the officers were entertained in the Ward Room. The kindness of their hosts no doubt did much to dispel the feeling of expectancy which must have been present among the Fusiliers going into action after nearly 50 years without active service.

The fleet silently weighed anchor and through the night the ships zigzagged on a changing course,

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in order to leave the watchers on the silent Peninsular in doubt, till the last moment, as to the place of landing.

Before dawn the Fusiliers were wakened and given a meal by the ship's cooks while the ships took up their final stations for the preliminary bombardment.

The Battalion was to land from ship's cutters, six being allotted to each Company. Soon after breakfast the cutters were alongside and the embarkation began. In spite of the fact that each man carried some 70 pounds of equipment, embarkation was quickly completed and, to the cheers of the sailors, the boats left the ship's side, tows of six cutters being towed by a steam pinnace under command of a midshipman.

"W" Beach, the Battalion's objective, was some 350 yards wide with low cliffs on each side and, in the centre, a mound which commanded the whole length of the beach. As the tows got nearer and the coast, until now hidden in the morning mist, became discernable, a belt of wire was seen to be stretching right across the beach.

The bombardment ceased as the Battalion neared the silent shore, now less than a hundred yards away. The order was given from the pinnaces to the cutters to slip their tow ropes and make for the beach. Tows were slipped and the four naval ratings in each boat began to pull on the oars to take the cutters in over the remaining distance. It was at this moment that the enemy

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opened an accurate and heavy fire largely directed at the crews. With stolid bravery and complete disregard of their personal safety the ratings went on pulling, seemingly oblivious of the fate of their comrades. It was impossible, for the enemy to miss at such close range. Only two boats reached the beach. From the rest the Fusiliers waded ashore jumping into anything up to four feet of water. Of the 80 naval ratings in the cutters 63 lay dead or wounded, at a terrible cost the Navy had upheld its traditions - the Army had been put ashore.

With their equipment soaked and the actions of their rifles jammed with wet sand the Fusiliers reached the line of wire at the water's edge to be caught by frontal and cross-fire from rifles and machine guns. By the time they were through the wire the Companies had become hopelessly mixed. On the left Captain R.R. Willis managed to get 'C' Company into some kind of formation and passed on to his objective in spite of many casualties. On the right and in the centre little progress could be made. On the beach behind the wire lay over 300 men. Much time was spent in trying to rally them and bring them on till reality became apparent, everyone of them was dead or wounded. Eleven officers and 350 men never crossed the beach.

Inspired by the courage of the ratings and undaunted by their appalling casualties the Fusiliers pressed on and by 0715 am on 25th April, a line of some sort had been established sufficiently far inland to render the beach clear of aimed fire.

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Few reached their appointed destinations. Lance Serjeant Stubbs, one of those few, was killed as he led the remnant of his platoon on to the objective. Serjeant Richards, formerly Drum Major, with his leg almost shot off dragged himself through the wire and by voice and example so encouraged those about him as to keep the momentum of the attack going.

So many and so outstanding were the deeds of gallantry performed by The Lancashire Fusiliers that morning that they were required to select and nominate six men for the Victoria Cross. An unprecedented and unparalleled distinction.

On the recommendation of their comrades the following received the decoration :-

Capt. C. Bromley	Capt. R.R. Willis
Sjt. A. Richards	L/Sjt. F.E. Stubbs
Cpl. J E. Grimshaw	Fus W. Keneally

"Six V.C.'s before breakfast" remains the pride and boast of every Lancashire Fusilier.

Many and generous were the official reports and signals made as a result of the Landing on "W" Beach and none is more appreciated than the signal made by H.M.S Euryalus :-

> "We are proud as can be to have had the honour to carry your splendid Regiment. We feel for you all in your great loss as if you were our own ship's Company, but know the magnificent gallantry of your Regiment has made the name more famous than ever"

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The Commander in Chief, Sir Ian Hamilton, who ordered "W" Beach to be renamed "Lancashire Landing" wrote of the exploit in his official despatch as follows :-

"It is my firm conviction that no finer feat of arms has ever been achieved by the British soldier - or any other soldier - than the storming of these trenches from open boats on the morning of the 25th of April. The landing at "W" had been entrusted to the 1st Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers (Major Bishop) and it was the complete lack of the senses of danger or of fear of this daring Battalion that we owed our astonishing success. Gallantly led by their officers, the Fusiliers literally hurled themselves ashore and, fired at from right, left and centre, commenced hacking their way through the wire. A long line of men was at once mown down as by a scythe, but the remainder were not to be denied."

Thus of mutual admiration was born the friendship which this year will be manifest in the meeting of the ship and the Battalion for the first time since that first Gallipoli Day.

Although H.M.S. Euryalus and the 1st Battalion have not been together since that April morning in 1915, a lively liaison has been maintained, and the memory of the association is perpetuated by the memorial tablet in Bury Parish Church presented by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Wester Wemyss and the officer's and Ship's Company of H.M.S. Euryalus, "to commemorate the Officers,

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non-commissioned officers and men of the 1st Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers who fell in action at Gallipoli" To mark the sense of honour done to it in this, possibly unique tribute from one Service to another, the 1st Battalion laid up its old Colours over this tablet when the time came to part with them. Thus is the memory of this great feat of arms kept green in the "home town" of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Another memento of the occasion, which accompanies the Battalion where ever it goes, is "The Euryalus Bell", the bell which marked the passing of the hours before the landing; for in 1934, Admiral Sir Rudolph Burmester, who commanded H.M.S. Euryalus at the Landing, presented the Ship's Bell to the 1st Battalion on behalf of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

So through the years the friendship has flourished, greetings have been exchanged on anniversaries such as Trafalgar Day, Minden Day and Gallipoli Day and when H.M.S. Euryalus and the 9th Battalion were associated in the Siege of Malta in the last war, an inscribed silver bugle was presented to the Battalion as a memento of this occasion. The 9th Battalion is now disbanded, the bugle has passed into the keeping of the 1st Battalion where it is carriedby the CO's bugler slung from Navy Blue cords, on all ceremonial occasions.

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Programme of principal Events

Sunday 22 April

H.M.S. Euryalus arrives at Aqaba.

Monday 23 April

Combined Ceremonial Parade.
Tennis Match.
Cocktail Party - Officers Mess.

Tuesday 24 April

Shooting Match.
Hockey Match.
Sjts Mess "At Home"
Officers dine on board H.M.S. Euryalus.

Wednesday 25 April

Combined Drum Head Service.
Football Match.
Squash Match.
Regimental Guest Night.

Thursday 26 April

Cricket Match.
Cocktail Party — H.M.S. Euryalus.
Company "At Home" for affiliated Divisions.

Friday 27 April

Swimming Match.
Beating of "Retreat".

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The Tynemouth
Heavy Regiment
Royal Artillery
(T.A.)

Now

404
Coast Regiment R.A.
(T.A.)

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THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

404 COAST REGIMENT R.A. (T.A.)

(Tynemouth Heavy Regiment R.A. (T.A.))

Successor to :

The Tynemouth Heavy Brigade R.A. (T.A.)
(1st Northumberland Artillery Volunteers 1859)

Organization

AND

Conditions of Service

etc.

1948

T.A. CENTRE, MILITARY ROAD, NORTH SHIELDS

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North Shields Training Centre

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON RE-FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT

404 COAST REGIMENT R.A. (T.A.) was originally the Tynemouth Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Corps being raised at Tynemouth in 1859, the late Lt.-Col. W. E. Pilter and Mr. Hugh Taylor, who then sat as Conservative M.P. for the Borough of Tynemouth, being mainly instrumental in its formation. The uniform in those early days was a grey tunic, black-braided grey trousers, black stripes with bronze furniture, the officers having silver furniture, whistles and chains and grey shakos. The name was altered to the 1st Northumberland Volunteer Artillery and as such the Regiment took part in the Volunteer demonstration in Windsor Park in 1881. They were loudly cheered as they passed Queen Victoria to the tune of " Weel may the keel row."

The Regiment was originally formed on similar lines to the Honourable Artillery Company. Objecting to a Unit of two arms the War Office insisted on the formation of two separate Corps. The Rifle Corps with only 100 effectives to begin with, speedily became the popular branch, increased rapidly in numbers, became a Battalion, overgrew its strength and in a few years ceased to exist. Meantime the Artillery continued to progress though the trials of those early days were somewhat distressing. For instance, when the guns were issued no harness was supplied so that, when the Battery turned out with four horses to each gun, no two horses were harnessed alike, the effect being somewhat quaint!

In the years after the 1914 war, when the Regiment became Garrison Artillery, more Coast Artillery was required and so the Tynemouth Heavy Brigade was formed from the original Regiment. This had batteries at North Shields, Seaton Delaval and Blyth and continued as a member of the then rapidly expanding Territorial Army to such good effect that in 1925 the Regiment won the Daily Telegraph Cup with 100% attendance at Annual Camp.

In 1933 R.H.Q. was moved to Blyth but on the outbreak of war in 1939 the Regiment became responsible for manning the defences of the North Eastern Ports. It has now been re-formed in its original home at North Shields.

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5 OCT 12

404 COAST REGIMENT R.A. (T.A.)

(Tynemouth Heavy Regiment R.A. (T.A.))

Offers you interesting Training and healthy open-air holidays on the Coast with Regular Army Rates of pay and allowances.

ORGANIZATION

The T.A. is made up and equipped on exactly the same lines as the Regular Army.

404 Coast Regiment R.A. (T.A.) has one Training Centre at Military Road, North Shields. Tel. No. North Shields 918-2288.

The Commanding Officer is Lt.-Col. J. H. O. CHRISP, T.D.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

You may join the T.A. provided you are not :—

(1) A member of the Regular Forces, and still serving a regular engagement.

(2) In any section of the Regular Army Reserve, or on class W Reserve.

(3) In class W(T) Reserve if under 25 years of age.

(4) Discharged from the Regular Army for misconduct or have been convicted of a serious civil offence.

(5) Employed as a civilian in the Army Record, Pay or Recruiting Offices or as a Mobilisation Storeman.

(6) A Civil Servant unless the Head of your Department agrees.

(7) Born in 1929 or later, and are fit for National Service (i.e. in Army Medical Categories A.1—B.6) ; EXCEPT that men whose call-up has been deferred on account of their being employed in Coalmining or Agriculture may be accepted.

(8) A man of any age whose call-up has been deferred, reserved or postponed because you are a student, apprentice or learner ; EXCEPT that any man whose deferment, reservation or postponement is expected to continue for at least a year after enlistment may be accepted.

(9) A man of any age whose deferment, reservation or postponement as a student, apprentice or learner has expired and who is awaiting call-up.

(10) A Policeman.

(11) Permanently employed in any of H.M.'s Dockyards.

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Other conditions :—

(*a*) Age :—between 18-40 years. (W.O.'s or N.C.O.'s of the last war may be accepted up to the age of 52 years).

(*b*) Medical :—Category A.1 and A.2, lower categories may be accepted (up to 20% disability) in special cases.

ENLISTMENT

(*a*) The C.O. will see you and give his final approval.

(*b*) You will be enlisted into the Royal Artillery (Coast) in the rank of Gunner and posted to 404 Coast Regiment R.A. (T.A.). (if you have had previous service as a W.O. or N.C.O. every effort will be made to give you back your W/S rank).

(*c*) You may choose the Battery in which you wish to serve.

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

Normally for 4 years. This can be extended later by periods of 1, 2, 3, or 4 years.

OBLIGATIONS

(*a*) In the event of a National Emergency you will be liable to serve in any part of the U.K. whether or not the T.A. is " embodied " in the Regular Army.

(*b*) Once the T.A. is " embodied " you will be liable to serve overseas and be transferred to any other Corps or Service in the Army, if, as in the 1939-1945 War this liability is imposed on the Army generally.

TRAINING

(*a*) A Training period consists of 1 hour's instruction or practice arranged so that it does not interfere with a man's civil employment.

Week-end Camps normally count as 8 Training periods.

(*b*) The following Training periods must be done each year to qualify for Bounty :—

(i) Recruits .... 40 } Plus Annual
(ii) Trained Men .... 30 } Camp.

(*c*) During a man's first year the dates of up to 10 of the training periods he is required to attend may be ordered by his C.O. Otherwise attendance will be at the man's convenience within the Unit training programme.

(*d*) Weapon Training Courses will be carried out on the Rifle Range and will count towards the number of Training periods required in para. (*b*) above.

(*e*) Annual Camp :—15 days maximum (not less than 8 days). If attendance is less than 15 days, 4 extra training periods are required for each day less.

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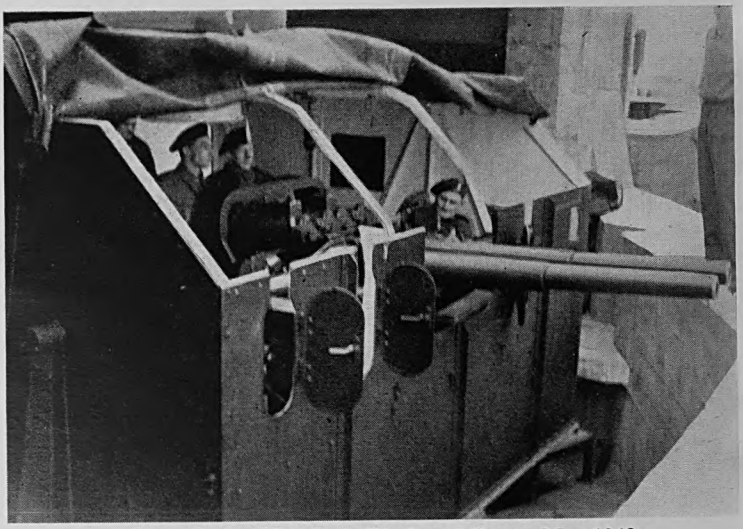

Spurn Point (Humber), Week-end Camp, May 1948

Hartlepool, Week-end Camp, April 1948

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PAY

(*a*) Training periods/Courses/Camps for periods exceeding 8 hours. All ranks receive the same rates and allowances as their equivalent ranks in the Regular Army.

(*b*) Training periods/Courses/Camps for periods 2 to 8 hours. Out of Pocket expenses allowance is payable.

	Hourly Rate.	*Maximum Daily Rate.*
Officers	1s. 6d.	9s. 0d.
W.O.'s and Sgts.	1s. 3d.	7s. 6d.
Bdrs.	1s. 0d.	6s. 0d.
O.R.'s	9d.	4s. 6d.

Travelling Expenses :—All ranks will be refunded the actual expenses incurred (over 3d.) travelling to parades by normal transport.

BOUNTY

Maximum of £12 per year made up as follows :—

(*a*) For completion of obligatory training—

i.e. Recruits .... 40 Training periods } Plus Annual
Trained men .... 30 ,, ,, } Camp.
—£5 0s. 0d.

In addition to above all men attending Annual Camp will receive £4 0s. 0d.

(*b*) For completion of 30 hours voluntary training :—£1 10s. 0d.

(*c*) For passing Tests of Skill :—£1 10s. 0d.

OUTFIT AND CLOTHING

Issued free according to the approved scale.

DISCIPLINE

Members of the T.A. are subject to Military Law when attending Training periods, week-end camps or Annual Camp.

SPECIALISTS AND TRADES REQUIRED

Drivers i/c, Fitters Electrical, Operators Fire Control, Driver Mechs., Engine Attendants, Range-finders, Switchmen and Lamp Attendants (Searchlight), Signallers, Telephonists, Clerks and Artificers, Gunners.

All enquiries should be made to the Adjutant at the Training Centre or to any member of the Permanent Staff.

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ANDREW REID & COMPA
STRAWBERRY HOUS
NEWCASTLE UPON TY

The Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne

presents an

Address of Honour

to the

9th Battalion
The Manchester Regiment

15th July, 1950

Souvenir Programme
PRICE - SIXPENCE

(Proceeds from sale of programmes will be given to The Battalion Welfare Fund)

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The 9th Battalion
The Manchester Regiment

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His Worship The Mayor
Alderman Ernest Clarke, J.P.

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The Commanding Officer, 9th Battalion,
The Manchester Regiment, T.A.
Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Glover, T.D.

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3-20 p.m. The Parade will take up a position in front of the Town Hall steps, and will comprise The 9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment T.A.; The 9th Cadet Battalion, The Manchester Regiment; The 9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment Old Member's Associations; The Band and Drums of The 9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment.

The King's and Regimental Colours will be borne on parade.

3-30 p.m. The Mayor with the Town Clerk, accompanied by Major General E. B. Costin, D.S.O. (Colonel of The Manchester Regiment), members of the Council, military and other guests will take their places on the steps of the Town Hall.

The Commanding Officer of the Battalion (Lieut-Colonel D. Glover, T.D.) will report to the Mayor that the Parade is ready for inspection.

The Colonel, the Honorary Colonel and the Mayor will inspect the Parade.

The Mayor will address the Assembly, and call upon the Town Clerk to read the Address of Honour.

The Mayor will present the Address of Honour to the Commanding Officer of The 9th Battalion.

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Ceremony

The Commanding Officer will acknowledge the Honour.

The 9th Battalion will fix bayonets and the Colours will be uncased.

The National Anthem

The Parade will then Salute the people of Ashton-under-Lyne.

The Parade will move off with Drums Beating, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed, by way of the west side of the Market Hall, Bow Street, Market Street and Katherine Street and will march past the Saluting Base at the Town Hall where the Mayor will take the salute accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment. The Parade will proceed by way of Warrington Street, Old Street, St. Michael's Square, Stamford Street and Cavendish Street where it will take up a position in front of the Headquarters at The Armoury.

The Mayor (accompanied by the Town Clerk), and the Colonel of the Regiment will proceed to The Armoury, where the Mayor will unveil a Stone Plaque on the facade of the building to record the Grant of the Honour.

The Band and Drums of The 9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment will play a fanfare.

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The Address of Honour

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE at a meeting held on the 14th day of June, 1950,

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That there be recorded in the Minutes of the Council the most sincere appreciation of the honourable record of service to their King and Country of the

9th BATTALION, THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

The Council is reminded that in the year 1859 two Companies of volunteers were formed at Ashton-under-Lyne under the command of Captain John Lees and Captain Ely Andrew which later was increased to four Companies and bore the titles of 23rd Lancashire Volunteers, the 7th Administrative Battalion of Lancashire Volunteers and 3rd Volunteer Battalion, The Manchester Regiment. During the South African War contingents joined the regular Battalions to play their part in this arduous campaign.

On the 1st day of April, 1908, the Battalion became known as The 9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment of the Territorial Army, by which name through its glorious feats of arms in the service of its King and Country it is now held by the inhabitants of this Borough in the highest esteem and most loyal and affectionate regard.

In the Great War 1914—1918 the Battalion under the command of Lieut. Colonel D. H. Wade, T.D., sailed with the 42nd Division to the Mediterranean, landing at Seddul Bahr, and by its exploits throughout the Gallipoli campaign set an example which the inhabitants of the Borough in common with the whole nation, remember with pride and admiration. Later in France and Flanders, the Battalion continued in a long, arduous and glorious campaign to earn the Manchester Regiment further Battle Honours.

In the Second World War, the Battalion under the Command of Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Keitley, M.B.E., embarked and took part in the battles in Belgium and France before Dunkirk.

In 1941 it sailed for Iceland, where it remained for six months.

In 1943 it again embarked for overseas, landing in North Africa, and finally taking part in the victorious campaign in Italy. It then saw service in Greece and eventually in Austria, concluding its active service there in January, 1946.

The Council accordingly being desirous of recognising the long and honoured association of the 9th Battalion The Manchester Regiment with the Borough, and of recording deep appreciation of its glorious record

REQUESTS

The Battalion henceforth to march with
DRUMS BEATING, COLOURS FLYING AND BAYONETS FIXED
on all ceremonial occasions within the Borough.

Given under the Common Seal
of the Borough Council.

ERNEST CLARKE, Mayor.
G. A. MALONE, Town Clerk.

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ORIGIN

In 1859 a panic arose in this country. The French had increased both their naval and military armaments, and the recent triumphs of Magenta and Solferino had revived the bitter remembrance of Waterloo.

On the 12th May, a circular was issued by General Peel, the Secretary of War, authorising the enrolment of Volunteers, and Corps after Corps was quickly formed throughout the kingdom.

Towards the end of this year a movement was started in Ashton-under-Lyne with the object of forming a Volunteer Corps, and in October a circular was issued by Thomas Mellor, afterwards Lieut-Colonel Commanding the Corps, in conjunction with William Greenall, signed by them as Secretaries, to the young men of the town, calling a meeting for that purpose. The meeting was held, and at its conclusion about 120 men gave in their names to be enrolled as Volunteers. Two Companies were formed, the conditions of joining being that each member of the 1st Company should provide his own outfit and pay one guinea annually to the funds of the Corps. The first drill took place in the month of November in the Oddfellows' Hall, Sergeant Instructor Chas. Newman being the first Drill Instructor appointed.

On the 15th of December, 1859, a meeting was held in the old Parish Church Schoolroom, for the purpose of choosing Officers and these were as follows :—

1st Company. *Captain :* John Lees.
Lieutenant : Thos. Mellor.
Ensign : Jas. Henry Garforth.

2nd Company. *Captain :* Ely Andrew.
Lieutenant : Joseph M. Clementson.
Ensign : John Nield.

About the end of 1860, the success of the two Companies had been such as to induce the Officers to form two additional ones. An Adjutant was appointed, and Captain Purcell O'Gorman, late of the 90th Regiment, was gazetted to that Office on 29th November, 1860.

The Corps attended the first review of Lancashire Volunteers on the Racecourse at Newton-le-Willows in 1860. Later on they were inspected annually on the Barrack Square at Ashton,

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until in 1863, the Ashton Corps of four Companies, the 23rd Lancashire, as it was then numbered, was attached for administrative purposes to the four Companies of the 31st Oldham, and became the 7th Administrative Battalion of Lancashire Volunteers Major Thos. Mellor being gazetted to the joint command as Lieut.-Colonel Commandant.

The addition of two more Companies to the Corps in order to make up a six Company Battalion was decided on in 1870, and in May that year they were formed. The Right Hon. The Earl of Stamford and Warrington was appointed Honorary Colonel in 1871, and continued in that honorary rank until his death in January, 1883.

It was felt at this time that the Ashton Corps should again have a separate individuality, both by its own members and also by the members of the 31st Oldham. Representations were made to the War Office, and eventually separation was granted on 29th July, 1882, the 23rd Ashton to be numbered the 7th Lancashire, and the 31st Oldham to be the 22nd.

Up to this time the Corps had never had any annual training in Camp, but in 1882 it was decided to go for a week under canvas. Ainsdale, near Southport, was selected as the site. This first experience of camp life was rather a severe one, as rain commenced to fall soon after arrival and continued for the whole week. It is interesting to know that in 1884 the annual camp was held at Rhyl in North Wales, because as recently as 1949 the Battalion has again carried out its annual training near this place.

In 1886 the Battalion was forced to leave its Drill Hall as the Railway Company required the land for the building of Charlestown Station. A scheme was immediately started to raise money to erect the present Armoury which was estimated to cost something like £4,000, and work was commenced on the new building that year.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

About 1890 the Battalion changed its title to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion The Manchester Regiment. At this period the Unit was commanded by Colonel John Eaton, C.B., V.D., who remained in command for a period of 20 years, terminating in 1904 when after 45 continuous years service he handed over the command to Lt.-Col. J. W. Pollit, V.D.

For the first time in its history members of the Battalion came under fire during the South African War 1899-1902 when contingents were sent to join the Regular Battalions in the War Zone. Two officers and 56 men served in the campaign in two

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detachments of one officer and 28 other ranks, the first detachment being commanded by Lieut. E. Howe, and the second by Lieut. G. Lupton.

9th BATTALION THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

In 1907, Lord Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, introduced the Bill, which later became law, that revolutionised the whole voluntary system of the auxiliary forces. It abolished the Militia and Volunteer Battalions, and in their place the Territorial Force was raised. And so, on the 1st April, 1908, the 9th Battalion came into existence, under the command of Colonel C. R. Wainwright, V.D., D.L.

At Worsley Park, near Manchester, in June, 1908, King Edward VII presented to the Battalion the Colours which are now carried by them.

The Battalion was soon at full strength and at this time consisted of eight Infantry Companies and one Cyclist Company.

THE GREAT WAR 1914-18

On 9th August, 1914, the Battalion was embodied for war, and almost immediately moved to Bury as part of the 42nd (East Lancashire) Territorial Division.

The 1/9th Battalion was one of the first Territorial Army Battalions to go abroad, sailing early in September, 1914 for Egypt, under the command of Lieut.-Col. D. H. Wade, T.D., where it was stationed in Cairo for the winter.

GALLIPOLI 1915

On May 5th, 1915, the Battalion sailed from Port Said for Gallipoli and was landed at Seddul Bahr four days later. The Battalion came under fire the next day, but did not occupy first line trenches for some days. During the last week of May it was attached to the 29th Division.

In the action of June 4th to 8th the Ninth held a portion of the " Redoubt " in support of the Manchester Brigade. This was an exceedingly important position, and had to be held at any cost.

While the landing at Suvla Bay was being carried out, the Battalion took part in the general attack on the Turks in the Helles sector, and succeeded in capturing and holding a position called the Vineyard. It was here that Lieut. W. T. Forshaw gained the V.C.

The following is the official notification issued by the War Office of the King conferring the V.C. upon Lieut. Forshaw :—

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" Lieutenant William Thomas Forshaw 1/9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment (Territorial Force).

" For most conspicuous bravery and determination in the Gallipoli Peninsula from 7th to 9th August, 1915.

" When holding the north-west corner of the ' Vineyard ' he was attacked and heavily bombed by Turks, who advanced time after time by three trenches which converged at this point, but he held his own, not only directing his men and encouraging them by exposing himself with the utmost disregard for danger, but personally throwing bombs continuously for 41 hours.

" When his detachment was relieved after 24 hours he volunteered to continue the direction of operations.

" Three times during the night of 8/9th August he was again heavily attacked, and once the Turks got over the barricade, but after shooting three with his revolver he led his men forward, and recaptured it.

" When he rejoined his Battalion he was choked and sickened by bomb fumes, badly bruised by a fragment of shrapnel, and could hardly lift his arm from continous bomb throwing.

" It was due to his personal example, magnificent courage and endurance that this very important corner was held."

The Battalion left Gallipoli during the general evacuation and returned to Egypt, arriving early in January 1916.

The 42nd Division remained in Egypt for the defence of the Suez Canal for the next 15 months and were in action at the Battle of Rumani, August 4th 1916 against a Turkish force which attempted to cross the canal and move into Egypt. The Turks were decisively beaten.

WESTERN FRONT 1917-18

In February, 1917, preparations were being made to move from Egypt to the Western Front, and by early March the 9th Battalion was voyaging westwards across the Mediterranean to Marseilles. Within a few weeks of arrival in France the Battalion had taken over a portion of the line on the Somme.

In September, 1917, the Battalion proceeded to the Ypres Salient and took part in the operations which culminated in the Battle of Passchendaele. Thence it went to Nieuport, where for a spell it held a particularly bad sector.

The winter of 1917-1918 saw it holding the line astride the Bethune-La Bassee Canal, cheerfully undergoing the trials, dangers and discomforts of a winter of trench life.

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An important raid was made by D Company on February 11th, 1918, opposite Festubert. The artillery put down a barrage, enclosing an area by three walls of bursting shells, and Captain D. B. Stephenson, with two other officers and ninety-seven men assisted by seven sappers went "over the top" in two waves. In places the wire had been imperfectly cut, so men lay flat on the "concertinas" to keep the wire down while their comrades scrambled over. The enemy could not get away, nor could reinforcements reach them, so they had no choice but to fight man to man, and at this the Germans were no match for the Ashton men. At least twenty-five were killed, seven prisoners and two machine guns were secured, and the Sappers blew up three enemy dug-outs with gun cotton. It was a good night's work, carried out with great dash.

Shortly after this it became necessary to re-organise the 42nd Division owing to the very great wastage of manpower caused by the recent fighting. The Infantry Brigades were reduced from four to three Battalions.

A number of officers and men of certain units including the 9th Manchesters were posted to other battalions of the Division, and the remainder transferred to the 66th Division, and for the moment the 9th Battalion ceased to exist.

2/9th BATTALION THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT 1914-18

At the end of September, 1914, recruiting was opened at the Armoury for a new unit, the 9th Reserve Battalion, which was later to become the 2/9th Battalion. The new unit was over 1,000 strong.

Proceeding to Southport in November, 1914 the Battalion remained there until May, 1915, when it moved to Hayward's Heath in Sussex. It was here that the death occurred in June, 1915, of Lt.-Col. T. H. Cunliffe, the first Commanding Officer of the Battalion. He was succeeded by Lt.-Col. C. C. Heywood.

In fulfilment of its original function as a "Feeding Unit," some 400 officers and other ranks had been sent by July, 1915, as re-inforcements to the 1/9 Battalion on Gallipoli. It is interesting to record that among these were two officers who, in later years, were to have the honour of commanding the 9th Manchesters, viz. Colonel (then Capt.) B. F. Robinson, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and Lt.-Colonel (then Lieut.) W. M. Barratt, T.D.

Towards the end of 1915 the Battalion ceased to be a feeding unit and shortly afterwards the wastage was made good by volunteers drawn mainly from the districts of Chester and the Merseyside. For some time the Battalion was held in reserve, as part of the 66th Division, in the South of England.

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For some months prior to going overseas at the beginning of March, 1917, the Battalion had been under the command of Lieut.-Col. C. S. Mitchell, but immediately on arrival in France Lt.-Col. C. M. Thorneycroft, C.B.E., D.S.O., assumed command.

The Battalion took part in heavy fighting in various sectors of the Western Front. These included the "Brickstacks" Sector at Quinchy ; Nieuport, where, incidentally, it was relieved by the 1/9 Battalion ; the Ypres Salient ; and the Somme.

The most important engagement in which the Battalion took part was the Passchendaele Offensive in October, 1917. Led by its Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. J. L. Heselton, D.S.O., M.C., the Battalion went over the top in the first wave of the attack of Poelcapelle on the 9th October. Advancing over terrain that was nothing but a quagmire and towards an enemy ensconced in steel and concrete pill-boxes, the Battalion was met with fierce small arms and artillery fire. Losses were grievous, but the Battalion gained and held its objective until relieved by an Australian unit on the 13th October. Honours were awarded to individual officers and other ranks as the result of this engagement.

The Battalion also played its part in stemming the German advance on the Fifth Army front which started on the 21st March, 1918, but credit arising from this operation is not claimed solely on behalf of the 2/9 Battalion. Sometime prior, the 1/9 Battalion had been disbanded and many of its members posted to the 2/9 Battalion which then became known as the 9th Battalion. Command of the re-organised unit was assumed by Lieut.-Col. E. C. Lloyd.

When the German attack opened at 04.40 hours on the 21st March the Battalion, which was in support, moved up to Battle Stations near Hargicourt Quarries and from the outset came under heavy shelling with H.E. and gas shells. On the morning of the 22nd March it was found that the enemy had broken through on the flanks and by fanning out behind had surrounded the Battalion. Two Companies, however, fought their way through the German lines to join up once again with British troops near Roisel. Major E. H. Scott, an officer who had served with the 2/9 Battalion from its inception, led one of the Companies which broke through the enemy's lines.

After making contact with British troops, the remnants of the Battalion alternately fought and retreated until the enemy was finally brought to a standstill East of Amiens.

The gallant few that were left of the Battalion, a mere handful were then employed for a short time in assisting with the training of American troops newly arriving in that theatre and were afterwards transferred to other units. The 9th Battalion had temporarily ceased to exist.

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3/9th BATTALION THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

Early in 1915 the 3/9th Battalion was formed under command of Lieut.-Colonel E. Garside, T.D., and was a training Battalion supplying drafts to 1/9th and 2/9th Battalions.

INTER-WAR PERIOD 1920-1938

The 9th Battalion was re-formed in 1920 under the command of Lieut.-Colonel D. H. Wade, T.D., and quickly reached full strength.

It attended annual training each year and gained many successes in shooting competitions and in sport. It won the 42nd Divisional Weapon Training Championship on three occasions (in 1934, 1935 and 1937) and many successes were gained by the Company teams and individual members of the unit. Successes were also gained at Bisley and in the decentralised competitions of the Territorial Army, thus continuing the tradition set up in the early days of the unit when members took part in shooting competitions at Wimbledon.

During this period the Battalion was commanded by Colonel J. Broadbent, T.D., 1922-26 ; Colonel G. W. Handforth, T.D., D.L., 1926-32 ; Colonel B. F. Robinson, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., 1932-38.

In 1938 owing to the efforts of the Officers and other ranks of the 1/9th the Battalion was duplicated, and once again the 2/9th was formed. Lieut.-Colonel H. S. Stern, T.D., was appointed to command it. It was one of the first of the new battalions in East Lancashire to reach full strength, and its officers were provided, in the main, by the 1/9th.

THE WORLD WAR 1939-45

In the Second World War the 1/9th Battalion, now a Machine Gun Battalion as part of 42nd Division, was mobilised on August 31st, 1939, and proceeded under the command of Lt.-Col. W M. Barratt, T.D., to Ponteland, Northumberland, in November, and afterwards to Kingsclere, Berkshire. In February, 1940, Lt.-Col. C. H. Keitley, M.B.E., assumed command, Col. W. M. Barratt having met with a serious accident, and in April the Division joined the B.E.F. in France.

The Battalion disembarked at Le Havre and within a few days moved to Armentieres. 42nd Division became responsible for the defence of a large sector on the Franco-Belgian frontier which for many miles followed the River Lys in the Commines-Wervicq-Halluin area.

On May 10th the German Army invaded the Low Countries and within a few hours the B.E.F. crossed the frontier in its

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advance to the River Dyle east of Brussels. The 1/9th was taken from the 42nd Division and became the M.G. Battalion of 3 Corps (5th and 50th Divisions). Companies were sent in support of Brigades of the 5th Division and advanced to Hal, west of Brussels, where defensive positions were occupied to cover the withdrawal of 1st and 2nd Corps.

The Battalion fought in the rear guard actions which followed the " Blitzkrieg " of the Germans and by May 23rd had returned through Tournai to take part in the defence of Arras, A and B Companies in support of 5th Division on Vimy Ridge, C and D Companies in support of 50 Division along the River Scarpe.

After heavy fighting the withdrawal from Arras commenced and was completed on May 25th.

The Battalion next came together in the area of Wulvergen, Wyschaete and Messines, A Company in support of 17 Brigade, B Company in support of 13 Brigade, C Company under Battalion orders and D Company in support of the 3rd Grenadier Guards who successfully counter-attacked to the Ypres—Commines Canal.

Evacuation from Dunkirk had already commenced, however, and a further withdrawal into the " perimeter " was carried out. The last elements of the Battalion left Dunkirk during the early hours of June 1st.

In April the Battalion under command of Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Usher, moved to Iceland, where it was distributed over the whole of the perimeter of that country, as M.G. Battalion to Iceland (C) Force.

Elements of the Battalion marched past Mr. Winston Churchill at Reykjavik on his return from signing the Atlantic Charter.

In October, 1941, following the arrival of American troops, the Battalion returned to the United Kingdom, where they joined the 52nd (Lowland) Division as the Divisional M.M.G. Battalion, and later joined an Independent Brigade at Orkney and Shetland, manning the Scapa Flow defences.

In November, 1942, the 1/9th reorganised as a Support Battalion consisting of Battalion H.Q. and 3 Brigade support groups. Each group had a H.Q., a 4.2 Mortar Company, Machine Gun Company, and an Anti-Aircraft Company—total Battalion strength of 1,100 officers and other ranks.

On December 12th, 1943, it embarked again for overseas service under the command of Lieut.-Col. F. G. A. Parsons, and landed at Algiers on Christmas Day. The battalion very soon embarked for Sicily and served for the remainder of war with the Central Mediterranean Force.

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ITALY 1943-44

In April, 1943, it crossed to Italy having been ordered to the Adriatic sector, and joined the 4th Indian Division. On reaching the assembly area at Scerni, south of the River Sangro, the Battalion was ordered to reorganise as a machine gun battalion of H.Q. 3 M.M.G. companies and one 4.2 mortar company. This was accomplished in 24 hours and the following day positions were occupied south and south-west of Pennapiedmonte.

There was little employment for M.G.'s and mortars, and in consequence the Battalion operated as infantry, carrying out much active patrolling.

In July the Battalion was ordered to concentrate in the area of Bevagna and had by this time become the support Battalion of 46th Division. Companies were placed under command as follows : A Company—128 Brigade ; B Company—138 Brigade ; and C Company—139 Brigade. 4.2 mortars were assigned one platoon to each M.G. Company.

On August 10th, 46 Division joined 5 Corps, and on August 19th moved to the concentration area of Sasso Ferrato. The attack on the Gothic Line began at 23.00 on August 23rd.

The 46th Division had as its objective the mass of Monte Gridolfo, rising sharply beyond the River Fogila. In the bare, rugged series of hills cut by frequent valleys were sited the imposing defensive works of the T.O.D.T. Organisation complete with minefields, concrete emplacements and wire obstacles. The Battalion fought in the sustained attacks upon these defences until the Gothic Line was breached in the early hours of the 1st September. The advance continued in mountainous country with rivers running eastwards to the Adriatic, the machine guns and 4.2 in. mortars of the Battalion supporting their respective brigades. In the advance the 46 Division came up against the fateful Coriano ridge and subsequently took part in some of the severest fighting of the war, in the area of Croce. In the course of twelve days' fighting three German divisions had been severely battered, and an advance of over 25 miles made through ideal defensive country. These series of battles successfully ended the fight for the Gothic Line proper.

The advance of the Division continued with the object of breaking through into the Po Valley and heavy fighting took place in which Companies of the Battalion were employed in the furthest forward positions. The Battalion supported infantry attacks across the Marecchia which proved to be a most formidable obstacle. The river crossed, the Divisional front was held by 46 Recce Regiment and one company 9th Manchester, machine guns, and one platoon mortars.

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The Uso and Rubicon rivers flooded, but the machine guns and mortars continued to put down heavy defensive fire which took its toll of elements of the famous German 90th Light. Our troops were cut off by the flooded rivers for two days, Then followed the crossing of yet another natural obstacle, the Fiumicino and on to the capture of Cesena. After two months of continuous fighting the Battalion came out for a rest with the Division, but on the 31st October an order came to relieve the 10th Indian Division—the 10 day rest was at an end. A further month's fighting took place and at 19.00 hours on the 11th December, command passed to 10th Indian Division and the 2nd New Zealand Division, the Battalion with 46 Division were relieved. During the fighting the Battalion with the Brigades of 46 Division had advanced more than 80 miles, fighting all the way, and 18 rivers had been crossed. The Battalion concentrated south of Ancona on the Adriatic coast—where Christmas, 1944 was spent.

On the 6th January, 1945, orders were received to move to Taranto, for shipment to Greece. The Battalion after carrying out duties with their respective brigades was moved to Agrinion with one company being pushed further north almost to the Albanian border at Yannina where they remained for about 10 days before returning to Agrinion. On the 7th April, 1945, the Division handed over to the 23rd Armoured Brigade and the move from Greece back to Italy began. The Battalion was re-grouped in the area of Forli and Bertinoro and was prepared to move forward to the final attack when the German armies in Italy capitulated. The Battalion moved northwards out of Italy into Austria where commitments were taken over in the province of Carinthia.

On the withdrawal of the Russian forces further northwards towards Vienna, the Battalion moved into the Graz area. With the thinning out of troops in Austria the Battalion concentrated in the area of Neumarkt and Judenburg and here it remained until December, 1945, when the order was received to disband.

Thus ended the activities of the Battalion which had taken it since 1939 to France, Belgium, and returning via Dunkirk, to Iceland and the Orkney Islands, to North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Greece, back to Italy and on into Austria.

2/9th BATTALION THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT, 1939-45

Formed in 1938 as a medium machine gun Battalion as the 2nd Line of the 9th Battalion, the first C.O. being Lt.-Col. H. S. Stern, T.D.

On the outbreak of war they mobilised in Fairfield and early in 1940 moved to Tenby in South Wales under the command of

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Lt.-Col. S. K. Pembroke, where, in addition to intensive training, the guarding of Milton Aerodrome and Pendine Sands was carried out.

In October, 1940, they moved to Pontypool, and in February, 1941 to the South of England, where they occupied a large sector of the coastal defences.

They remained in the South of England until, in December, 1941, they were converted to Anti-Tank Artillery, becoming the 88th Anti-Tank Regiment R.A. As such they moved early in 1942 to Bournemouth, and later in the year to Llandidloes, Central Wales, where they became the Anti-Tank Regiment to the 49th Division.

The Regiment as such did not proceed overseas, but instead found drafts for other R.A. units.

The Regiment was finally disbanded at the end of the war the last C.O. being Major G. A. MacLelland.

During their career the 2/9th achieved a high degree of efficiency, both as machine gunners and as Anti-Tank Gunners, and those who found themselves posted to other units nobly upheld the high traditions and standards of the Manchester Regiment in whatever theatre of war they happened to be.

PRESENT AND FUTURE

The 9th was not disbanded for long. At the end of 1946 a move was set on foot to reconstitute the Territorial Army, and on April 1st the Armoury doors swung open. The 9th had been reborn, under the command of Lt.-Col. D. Glover, T.D.

As was to be expected, the Battalion got off to a quick start in recruiting, but almost immediately after re-forming as a Machine Gun Battalion it was informed that its future role was uncertain. This naturally held back recruiting until in 1948 it changed from its role as Machine Gun Battalion and became an Infantry Battalion under 127 Brigade.

Since forming, the Battalion has had three excellent camps. First the permanent camp at Altcar near Liverpool where naturally training was on a very limited scale and all training was brigaded. In fact, all the arrangements were on a Brigade basis, the officers sharing one mess, the sergeants another, and so on. This was felt not to be entirely satisfactory, and so, when the Battalion went to camp in Kinmel Park, Rhyl, in 1949, it went as a Battalion and almost entirely ran its own show. In 1950, Pembrokeshire saw the Unit where in a fortnight's blazing sunshine exercises took place with live ammunition and tanks, and a greater sense of realism entered into the training.

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As was to be expected of a Battalion with such fine traditions there was a great rallying of older personnel to the Colours when the Unit re-formed in 1947. Up to now, they have formed the bedrock on which the Battalion has built, ably supported by many of the younger element who have since joined them. The Unit still suffers from a great shortage of officers, particularly younger ones, but has got a strong and expanding Sergeants' Mess. Numerically the Unit is the strongest infantry unit in the Lancashire recruiting area, but there is still ample room for those of more experience to volunteer and help to build up the Battalion to its pre-war strength and reputation.

The shooting does not yet quite reach pre-war standards, but very creditable performances have been put up at the Divisional and County of Lancaster Rifle meetings. An excellent corps of drums have been re-formed and the band have made very good progress, being the first to be formed in the 42nd Division.

The Battalion now faces, as do all other Territorial Units, the great hurdle of taking in and absorbing the National Serviceman. This will, in the next few years, inevitably alter the type of unit very considerably, but with its great traditions welded through so many generations, the future of the 9th should cause no anxiety. Commanding as it does the love and support of all the people of Ashton-under-Lyne the Battalion will, without doubt, proceed to live up to its motto, and "Go one better" in the future as it has done in the past.

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BATTLE HONOURS OF THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

The honours in which the 9th Battalion have shared are underlined in the list, and those in heavy type are borne on the Colours.

" Guadaloupe, 1759," **" Egmont-op-Zee,"** **" Peninsula,"** **"Martinique, 1809,"** **"Guadaloupe, 1810,"** **"New Zealand,"** **" Alma,"** **" Inkerman,"** **" Sevastopol,"** **" Afghanistan 1879-80 "** **" Egypt, 1822,"** **" Defence of Ladysmith,"** **" South Africa, 1899-1902,"** **" Mons,"** " Le Cateau," " Retreat from Mons," " Marne, 1914," " Aisne, 1914," " La Bassée, 1914," " Armentières, 1914," **" Givenchy, 1914,"** " Neuve Chapelle," **" Ypres, 1915, 1917, 1918,"** " Grafenstafel," " St. Julien," " Frezenberg," " Bellewaarde," " Aubers," **" Somme, 1916, 1918,"** " Albert, 1916, 1918," " Bazentin," " Delville Wood," " Guillemont," " Flers-Courcelette," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," " Ancre Heights," " Ancre 1916, 1918," " Arras, 1917, 1918," " Scarpe, 1917," " Bullecourt," " Messines, 1917," " Pilckem," " Langemarckm, 1917," " Menin Road," " Polygon Wood," " Broodseinde," " Poelcappelle," " Passchendaele," " St. Quentin," " Bapaume, 1918," " Rosieres," " Lys," " Kemmel," " Epehy," " Amiens," **" Hindenburg Line,"** " Canal du Nord," " Selle," " St. Quentin Canal," " Beaurevoir," " Cambrai, 1918," " Courtrai," " Sambre," " France and Flanders, 1914-1918," **" Piave,"** " Vittoria Veneto," " Italy, 1917-18," " Doiran, 1917," **" Macedonia, 1915-1918,"** " Helles," " Krithia," " Suvla," " Landing at Suvla," " Scimitar Hill," **" Gallipoli, 1915,"** " Rumani," " Egypt 1915-17," **" Megiddo,"** " Sharon." " Palestine, 1918," " Tigris, 1916," " Kut al Amara, 1917," **" Baghdad,"** " Mesopotamia, 1916-18."

The Honours for the 1939-45 war have not yet been awarded to any Regiment.

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